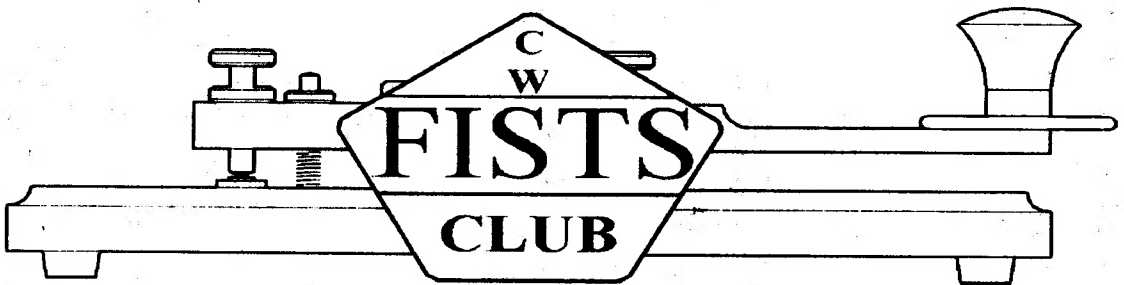


# The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the  
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS , You've Worked A Friend"

## HOW DO I...

**...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75. Mugs are \$7.50. Tshirts: M, L, XL = \$9; XXL, XXXL=\$10. These prices DO include priority postage. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FISTS CW CLUB.

**...GET A MEMBERLIST?** The list is printed in the KeyNote once a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$2 to cover printing and mailing - it's 15 pages long, to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

**...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST?** Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to Brian W8BL at blafont@tir.com If you change Email addresses, please let Brian know.

**...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

**...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION?** Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/ year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. *What's the Family Plan?* All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

**...SPONSOR A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

**...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS?** Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Please enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

**...APPLY FOR A FISTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD?** Send a list of contacts: call, FISTS #, date, band, power used, and YOUR return address to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the US issued Awards. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to England; Bob Lowe PO Box 190, BOLTON B11 4UL, including \$5 US cash to cover the cost of the award plus postage.

**...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?** send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL60030. Email to w9em@aol.com

**...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE?** Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

**...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

**...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION?** Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

**...FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org>

**...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

**...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

**...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.

# North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682

Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720

Century Award Net: Sunday 1900Z (1500est/edt) on 14.058MHz

Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z

Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z

30 meter calling frequency = 10.118

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

## *North American Memo*

Hi FISTS! I hope you found the roster in Issue 2 useful and enjoyed the new photopages. For the new members who don't have the photopages to date, don't despair, I recently had a new set reprinted and will be mailing them out to the members who have joined, so you will be up-to-date on all the photopages. It takes 36 photos to complete a page, please send in your photo, if you haven't done so already.

You may have noticed that there was not any North American news in Issue 2. That doesn't mean I got a vacation! This issue has 32 pages to make up for it. I still have a lot of material I would like to include, so if you've sent something in, and I haven't printed it yet, please be patient. My scanner is still acting up, but I hope to have time to look at it this month.

**IMPORTANT!** Please take a moment to look at the renewal date on your mailing label. There apparently has been some sort of computer glitch, whether it was operator error or an early Y2K goof, I don't know, but some of the renewals received haven't been updated. If you renewed **BEFORE** March 1 and your label is incorrect, please let me know, so I can fix it. If you sent in your renewal check **AFTER** March 1, your old date will be on the label since the labels were printed before the renewals were processed.

**LATE BREAKING AWARD NEWS:** HQ in England has added some new awards to the already extensive list of operating achievement certificates. Details are in this issue of the Keynote - please note that these awards are available thru the Awards Manager in England and **NOT** thru Joe, the North American Awards Manager. I hope you enjoy working toward these new goals and your walls are covered with FISTS wallpaper. Thank you to Arnie, KT4ST for designing the graphic for the new Rag Chewers Award. It captures the spirit of FISTS Rag Chewers perfectly!

There has been discussion for quite some time about a 30 meter calling frequency. After much discussion with FISTS who operate on 30 meters, have decided on 10.118. 10.138 was considered to be too high and too much interference from RTTY and other stations, and 10.108 was too low, close to the DX window and the QRP frequency of 10.106. Hopefully, like Goldilocks, we'll find 10.118 to be just right.

The Novice Round Up was a big success, results are in this issue. Also, don't forget to mark your calendar for the Spring Sprint, which is May 8, the Saturday before Mothers Day. The Dayton Hamvention will be here before we know it, May 14-16. Joe Walsh is going to be giving a concert after the ARRL Banquet on Saturday night that weekend, so be ready to rock! I'll be in bed, but hopefully some of you youngsters can stay awake and party all night. As always, we need help working the FISTS booth, so let me know if you have a few hours to spare. Keep those cards and letters coming, I can't write the Keynote without you. Now, on with your Keynote...de Nancy WZ8C

# Welcome to the New FISTS Members

<u>FIST#</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>FIST#</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
5826	KB3CRY	DAVID	PA	WB2FXK	5874	NQ4Q	JOHN	MD	N3AO
5827	WA9AQN	JOHN	IL	Webpage	5875	NB4J	DAVE	PA	Webpage
5828	W9SIO	DAVE	ND	WD4ALQ	5876	W0JP	WARREN	IA	K5HLR
5829	K8KUG	ROBERT	OH	N8NLE	5877	WR2B	JOE	NJ	K3LT
5830	AA5JJ	WAYNE	OK	Webpage	5878	W7DE	DAVE	CA	Webpage
5831	W6JEO	CARL	CA	WB0CFF	5879	W7VPK	GALE	NV	K7ZPE
5832	AD6FL	CHUCK	CA	Webpage	5880	KG5U	DALE	TX	Webpage
5833	WB7O	FRANK	ID		5881	KK7ML	FRANK	WA	AI9L/AF9H
5834	WA8OQZ	ANUEL	WV	N8FL	5882	K9LIR	JOHN	IN	#4470
5835	W8YDJ	K.G.	OH	KB8ZYY	5883	VE2VAB	ANDRE	QUE	WB2FXK
5836	WB2CZW	STEVE	NJ	W4HZD	5884	KF7TY	TAPIO	WA	Webpage
5837	N2OSY	JOHN	NY	N3RY	5885	KB3CQU	HANK	PA	WB6BBX
5838	KD6NPA	CHRIS	CA	W5WWW	5886	AC4UD	HOLT	NC	K4CMH
5839	AA3DW	RAY	NC	KI8DU	5887	KF6ROX	HERB	CA	Webpage
5840	KB9NQI	CLAYTON	IN		5888	N4XY	Ed	GA	WZ8C
5841	KB9IUA	KEVIN	IL	NN9K	5889	VE1DS	KEN	NS	Webpage
5842	AE4ZQ	Bobby	NC	WB2FXK	5890	KX0T	BOB	IA	WZ8C
5843	W2IFB	JOSEPH	NY	K7ZPE	5891	W0AL	AL	MN	AA3RC
5844	KD5FJE	DOUG	TX	KE4NAY/AF4BA	5892	WB4FVL	FRANK	VA	N4ZMP
5845	KG4AQN	ROBERT	NC	WB2FXK	5893	K4TJD	TOM	GA	K5HLR
5846	K8BY	GARY	OH	Webpage	5894	K5LG	LESTER	AR	WB2FXK
5847	KB8WSG	CHARLES	OH	Dayton	5895	KD7JG	JOE	OR	W6DDDB
5848	N2VJR	CLIFFORD	NY	W2FX	5896	AC7AJ	SEAN	WA	K7ZPE
5849	N7BQ	DAVE	OR	Webpage	5897	K3MD	JOHN	PA	N3PUR
5850	W2ZQ	DE. VALLEY club	NJ		5898	N1PWM	BOB	ME	Webpage
5851	AA0MZ	JIM	CO	K7FD	5899	KB2ZYU	EDDIE	NY	N9BOR
5852	W0SLS	SAM	MO	K6DF	5900	KD7DYH	Reno FISTS	NV	
5853	KD5FIW	STEVE	LA	W6DDDB	5901	KF6ZZ	PHIL	CA	KF4ZE0
5854	AE4PD	Wendell	KY	Webpage	5902	KC5TXX	JAY	TX	WJ0C
5855	N4PF	MIKE	KY	K4TXJ	5903	W4KHC	BILL	TN	W6DDDB
5856	N0OB	MAC	NE	Webpage	5904	N0KBB	KEVIN	CO	AA3RL
5857	WB9PPK	ART	IL	N9RFR	5905	N5VU	MARK	OK	W2LOB
5858	VE6GH	GRANT	AB	WB2FXK	5906	K0DG	DICK	NE	W2LOB
5859	WB8W	BOB	OH		5907	N4PGJ	RON	NY	NB2T
5860	KC7HCR	TYE	MT	N4ZMP	5908	K1KAR	HERBERT	RI	N1SGI
5861	K5WN	DAVE	TX	W3JIM	5909	KD4VBR	RICHARD	FL	K5HLR
5862	VE7KFK	FRANK	BC	VE7RGX	5910	KC6B	C B	CA	
5863	WA6TNW	TIM	NV	Cindy	5911	KB9SSV	MIKE	IL	VE3JIF
5864	AA0SX	BEN	MO	Webpage	5912	N8ED	ED	MI	
5865	W6RXU	FRANK	CA	N6IU	5913	KA9UZH	PATRICK	IL	K5HLR/WZ8C
5866	K6TBW	SANDY	CA	K7ZPE	5914	W9CCL	LARRY	IN	
5867	KG3Q	LOU	PA	K3KDC	5915	W2FXJ	STEVE	NY	WA20VT
5868	K8EIG	BOB	OH	KB8KIK	5916	K2GWR	ZEKE	FL	WZ8C
5869	AD6HJ	CARL	CA	KB6QIB	5917	KB6MIR	JOSE	CA	K5HLR
5870	AA7FK	BOB	OR	W1LIC	5918	WA1MHH	JOHN	MA	K1TXU/N1WCZ
5871	NO CALL YET	GARY	KY	Webpage	5919	W0YPM	DONALD	MO	W4BX
5872	W6JDT	BILL	CA	KJ6CA	5920	W6WVK	CHUCK	CA	W9IS
5873	K0HNI	TOM	FL	KC4GPJ	5921	KF4GIN	FRANK	FL	AC4UI
					5922	K2YJL	JOE	KY	

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor	#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
5923	VE3SP	RON	ONT	Webpage	5972	K9ENC	JOHN	WI	KA3CBC
5924	K0PV	DON	TX	Webpage	5973	KE3FA	BILL	PA	
5925	WN2Q	JOHN	NY	WB2FXK	5974	K2LML	BOB	NY	KC8GWG
5926	KC2CRE	LOIS	NY	WB2FXK	5975	KI7UU	TIM	WA	K7ZPE
5927	AA6FO	RON	KY	Webpage	5976	K3HX	GILBERT	PA	K6DF
5928	KC0EHH	SKIP	CO	N4ZMP	5977	K4SGQ	JOHN	VA	
5929	W7YCK	GENE	OR	N9LGP	5978	KD5EJA	JOHN	MS	VE5HQ
5930	KB2SGM	BOB	NJ	VE1ZAC	5979	KC5YDA	BASIL	AR	Webpage
5931	KB1ALE	MOE	ME	N1WL	5980	K9KRN	JOHN	IN	K5HLR
5932	K4COB	COBB	VA	G. Hartsell	5981	KO6QR	DEAN	CA	
5933	WB3LJT	BILL	MD		5982	WB0VKY	RON	IA	N9ZNF
5934	K2MYQ	BILL	NJ	AA2Y0	5983	KE4REM	RALPH	FL	
5935	KE4THG	JOHN	VA		5984	K5MOG	SID	AR	Webpage
5936	KJ5CR	JOHN	TX	WB2FXK	5985	AC5OO	JOSEPH	AR	KA2SJG
5937	KB9ORF	ROY	PA	WA4KQL	5986	AE8T	LEE	OH	KS7J
5938	WA6ETF	GEORGE	CA	W7MZO	5987	KB8LGE	DAN	OH	N9BOR
5939	WB0OSP	KEVIN	MO	W6DDDB	5988	KC0DUO	GARY	KS	KB7PIM
5940	KB8YIK	DENNIS	OH	KB8KIK	5989	KA2FBO	ARCHIE	NJ	KB2ZPE
5941	KC7PMW	CLAIRE	OR	N6RNP	5990	KE6WGH	TED	CA	K5HLR
5942	KA8FVZ	JIM	OH	Webpage	5991	K6YN	BOB	CA	KC7QOP
5943	KC7ZUX	CHUCK	AZ	Webpage	5992	KD8A	MARVIN	OH	WD8PKI
5944	KF6AHW	RALPH	CA	KA8YRV	5993	AA4YW	HUGH	NC	
5945	KF4WZA	MARGARET	VA	KT4AD	5994	W1BIG	CLARK	NC	KF4WRF
5946	AB4BC	PETER	AL	Webpage	5995	WA7NBU	GEORGE	CA	KA7MGM
5947	KG2GL	TONY	NJ	W6DDDB	5996	KC8HFV	JERRY	OH	Webpage
5948	K1RED	RED	VT	Webpage	5997	K8GA	WAYNE	MI	W8FAX
5949	AA8EN	GARY	OH		5998	N2EWE	Bayou	FL	N0OB
5950	KC8KSD	JIM	OH	AB8AV	5999	W5BYU		LA	K5HLR
5951	WK9O	HERB	IL	N9FGC	6100				
5952	KD6VFO	DAVID	CA	Webpage	6101	N4PNN	CECIL	UT	Webpage
5953	KJ5TF	JIM	AR	Webpage	6102	WD8CAT	JOE	MI	KB40PV
5954	KB5OGN	MIKE	LA	WF6W	6103	N2BWM	WALT	FL	WA1GAG
5955	VE1TT	KURT	NS	VE1MT	6104	K1QT	BOB	MA	Webpage
5956	W9BEN	FRED	IL		6105	N1UIY	AL	MA	N1YUK
5957	WA1OFT	TOM	RI		6106	KE6GTR	JUDY	CA	KC7QOP
5958	AF4EP	BILL	GA	K4WZ	6107	KB9QKW	JIM	WI	W6DDDB
5959	W4FOA	TONY	GA	W28C	6108	W5EI	DON	TX	K4YKI
5960	KB7YD	PAT	WA	W7BYG	6109	W9QVI	ROBERT	WI	K5HLR
5961	KC7EAY	TIM	WA	W7BYG	6110	K4OVW	BEN	NC	KA3CBC
5962	K8KIR	BUD	MI	KA4IFF	6111	KD5FLO	CLIFF	TX	K5EYE
5963	KA4TMT	RANDOLPH	VA	W28C	6112	KD4UMU	DAN	NM	KC7QOP
5964	N7ETZ	BOB	WA	N4VEF, KE4QZB, N6RNP	6113	KC8GCR	GLENN	WV	WL7CDC
5965	WA2JLW	ROY	NY	KA3P	6114	KL7QOW	MIKE	AK	WL7CKT
5966	WA6YOO	HARRY	CA	Webpage	6115	W9DYG	FRED	MN	KA3CBC
5967	KA9RPN	RALPH	IN	KC8BSC	6116	N6NOU	ROBERT	CA	W28C
5968	N3DXD	BOB	PA	WB3JJK	6117	W4WYV	GEORGE	NC	N1YUK
5969	W6IEU	KENNETH	CA	N9TRK	6118	W5CWZ	GEORGE	MS	KK5NA
5970	KN6DA	RODNEY	CA		6119	WB8DBX	JIM	FL	Webpage
5971	KG9OR	DOUG	WI	W6DDDB	6120	KE6ZWZ	JIM	CA	WJOC
		BUD							

#	Callsign	First name	State	Sponsor
6121	W4NBS	TOM	AL	KA7J
6122	KB6MHS	ROBERT	CA	
6123	VE5JT	JOHN	SK	WB2FXK
6124	W7EVC	HAL	AZ	KA7MGM
6125	K0VAN	JIM	MN	Webpage
6126	N7NU	LEE	OR	AA9KH
6127	K0MT	JERRY	CO	WB0CFF
6128	KC4URI	STEVE	VA	Webpage
6129	N0SS	TIM	MO	KA8YRV

### Callsign Changes

Bill, #2421, was N3FU; is now WF6A  
Mike, #5607, was KI8FL; is now K8LH  
Rita, #5797, was KE6GMK; is now KE6GM  
Rich, #5726, was WB6JGD; is now K6JGD  
Christopher, #4318 was KF4BOU; is now W4CMS  
Chuck, #5061, was KI8BA; is now W8YM  
Dick, #5720, was NW4G; is now K8CI  
Dave, #5849, was N7BTK; is now N7BQ  
Dan was KQ6ON; is now WO6M  
Dennis, #5940, was KB8YIK; is now K8DLH  
Duane, #3494, was KT4XE; is now K4PTT  
Duane #4934, was KG9KD; is now WB9K  
Duane, #5478, was AD6HE; is now W9ZM  
Grant, #2573, was K2ACW; is now N4GM  
Jim, #1981, was KE4NAY; is now AF4NS  
John, #5373, was KC2DJZ; is now W2KSS  
Nick, #3594, was N0NY; is now K3NY  
Ross, #5780, was K3YBL; is now W5NV  
Frank, #3335, was KD2IX; is now N2IX  
Richard, #5245, was AC5OD; is now N5XM  
Walt, #4474, was KB3BHE; is now WA3LT  
John, #3057, was KB6VBL; is now W6JEB  
Frank, #4947, was K2KSY; is now N8HI  
Norm, #5444, was AA1TO; is now K1NAJ  
Jim, #5158, was N0NJK is now KI0PH  
Hap, #3463, was KF6GCZ; is now KQ6YV.  
Al, #2773, was W9MYZ; is now W0MYZ  
Mike, #3669, was KB0ZTN; is now KA0CW  
Mike, #4387 is now W9WIS  
Tom, #5654, was KC5QBU; is now AC5SH  
Fred, #5798, was WA2NBS; is now W2FLG  
Perley, #4274, has his old call back, he is now N1YUK  
again, after briefly changing to N1YK  
#2369 was KB8ZVD is now N8UD - He also would  
like to be called Bud instead of Walt.

### Fists QRQ Net ? by Brian W8BL

First, let me say Welcome to all the new members. Sure have grown a lot again in the last year. Hope everyone is having fun, and we are meeting the on-air needs of the members.

We now have several slow code and slow traffic groups operating that cater to new and slower CW ops. This is great, and I commend the NCS's on these Nets for their needed contribution to the club. For those who like a bit faster pace, we have the Fists Century Net on Sunday afternoon.

During the past several months, I have had the opportunity to work many Fists members, whose skill level surpass, what we presently offer to the general membership with our on-air Nets. I am looking for feedback, to see if there is enough interest in a High Speed Net for Fists Members, especially those who have an interest in improving their CW skills and moving to a higher skill level. At this time, I have no idea how many might be interested, but if I receive enough positive feedback, I will try to see what we can do to fill this void in our Fists Nets.

At this point, you maybe asking, how fast does he mean? Again, this would be open to debate, but I was thinking of a minimum of 30wpm for QNI and with a ceiling of about 60wpm. If something like this, peaks your interest, than please let me know, and we will try to accomodate you.

If you read this far, than thanks for your interest and hope to hear from you. Vy 73 es Gud Fists Hunting  
Brian W8BL, 3050 Rochester Rd., Dryden, Michigan 48428 Email: blafont@tir.com

### Corrections

Rita, #5797 was listed incorrectly in Issue 1. Her call-sign is (was) KE6GMK. She is now KE6GM.  
I gave John Shannon's callsign incorrectly on his QRP column in Issue 1. It should have been K3WWP  
Clayton, #5840 is listed incorrectly on the membership list, he should be KB9NQL, not KB8NQL.  
Rick, #4782 was incorrectly listed as W0QZ in Issue 1. He is W9QZ.  
#3891, AA8GQ's name was misspelled - shud read "Helmut".

## **FIST Century Net** *by Al W8FAX*

We have gained so many new FIST members since the Century Net was started, I thought it would help if we reviewed the loose rules and purpose of the net. Our purpose is to have fun, learn net procedures, meet new and old FISTS, and exchange numbers. The net convenes every Sunday at 1500 EST/EDT. Please note this is NOT zulu time. We decided to do this so the time would always be the same year round. The only time there may not be a net is when there is a major contest going on, or an NCS has become unable to meet his obligation. We try to get standins, but that is not always possible. ANYONE is free to take the net if an NCS does not show. The net IS directed. Currently there are four NCS stations, Brian W8BL, Jim KC5VJU, Stan AC6TO, and Al W8FAX.

The NCS asks for and takes checkins (QNI). After a list is established, NCS starts down the roll call. When he calls YOU, you may call any two stations on the list, exchanging FISTS numbers, RST, QTH, etc. We try to keep QSO exchanges to a minimum because it holds up the net. It is also very time consuming to send call sign exchanges over and over, so we try to keep this to a minimum also. The NCS will periodically call for more checkins, however, we usually do not ask for any after the first hour. This is because the NCS would spend most of his time repeating the list for every late QNI. Most NCS's will go down the roll at least twice, depending on the amount of participants. Many FIST members check in every Sunday so they can be available for other members.

All are welcome. We only ask that you follow a couple of suggestions. PLEASE notify the NCS if you are leaving the net. This is our biggest problem. It causes a lot of unnecessary calling and wastes time. If you are not going to hang around for the net, please check out, or wait until the net is over to use the frequency. When we have a large net, sometimes it will be a half hour or so before your turn comes. Often, the conditions will deteriorate by the time you get your shot. This is why checking in at the beginning of the net is important. If the NCS is going too fast for you, request a QRS. The NCS ops have no problem with this. I hope this will help clarify things for the new folks, and review for the others. Please join us. We have a lot of fun, and when conditions are good, we even work some DX now and then. See YOU on 14.058

Al/W8FAX  
ISSUE 3 1000

Jan 10: AC6TO NCS; K7ZYV; AA9KH; N4VEF; K7ZR; W8BL; AB2AU; VE3UKU; NB2T; K0OAL; K2SWZ.

Jan 17: W8BL NCS; K6DF; K7ZR; K0OAL; HP1AC; N3CEU; K7ZYV; N4VEF; AC6TO; K4UK; AA9KH; K2SWZ; WG6M; KC8GOJ. Cndx Poor with much QRM.

Jan 24: AC6TO NCS; WA1GAG; VE3GEC; K7ZYV; K2SWZ; AA9KH; W4NPL; VE3UAU; N4VEF; K6DF; K4UOZ; N9LGP; KE4QZB/QRP; K0OAL; KA3CBC; NG2OK; WA7YYY; VE3DFV;

Jan 31: Couldn't hear very well and QSB was not helping. QNI: W8FAX/NCS; W8BL, K7ZYV, KC5T, AA9KH, W3ERU, N4VEF, AC6TO, K0OAL, and K2SWZ. I'm sorry if I missed you. I also had high background atmospheric noise.

Feb7: W8FAX, NCS; WA1GAG, KA1IFF, K7ZYV, K6DF, W3ERU, KC5VJU, AC6TO, K0OAL, N4VEF, KG8WF, AF5Z, K8FD, N8UJZ, K8HBI, KA7PMD. Cndx were ruff, with sigs Q5 one time and Q1 next. Lots of background noise. Thanks for the help from members with QSP and repeats. Also, welcome to the new FIST members who checked in. Please come back. You will be very popular.

Feb 14: KC5VJU NCS; WA1GAG; AC6TO; AA9KH; K2SWZ; W8BL; N4VEF; KC8GOJ; K0OAL; KG2OK; KC2AFK; W3ERU; KC5T/QRP

Noise and QRM wid my bad key made it hard on me. Hope all had a good time, will try and get the key fixed soon. 73s To all and TKs for the QNIs.

Feb 28: K6DF NCS; WA1GAG; AA9KH; VE4GEC; K1SEC; W8BL; N4VEF; W4NPL; AC6TO; WN6HYX; K0OAL; WA6RND; VE5HQ; W0CGR; K18DU; WA2VQV; KI5UK.

March 7: QNI: K6DF NCS, WA1GAG; W8BL; AA9KH; VE4GEC; WA2VQV; K4UK/M; WA8YPY; K0OAL; KC2AFK; WA6RND; AC6TO. The good net today, despite lots of QRN and QSB. Several stations commented on the poor condx.

.....  
: Congratulations to Barton :  
: WB2HEK on earning FISTS :  
: Chewers Award Number :  
: 0001!!! :  
: ..... :

## **FSSG To Celebrate And Affiliate** *by Charlie KA8OQF*

On March 3, the FISTS Slow Speed Group celebrated its 4th anniversary. We meet on 3720 kHz +/-2, at 8pm eastern time. Everyone is invited to check in to the casual ragchew net. Our purpose is to extend a welcome and an invitation to those beginners who will be the FISTS members of the future.

In addition, on that date the net will take on an additional purpose. We will officially affiliate with the National Traffic System, and be considered a relay point for NTS traffic. We don't intend to become a full-bore traffic net, as we don't have the coverage needed or the personnel yet to handle massive quantities of traffic. We will serve the purpose of an additional convenient place to drop the occasional message when your schedule doesn't let you check in to your regular local/section/national traffic net. The messages on FSSG will be relayed back into the regular system by whoever takes them in accordance with NTS regular procedures.

For those who simply enjoy CW, and those who need another place to drop the occasional message, FSSG is the place. See you on 80 as we begin our 5th big year!

### **/MM Urgent traffic passed** *by Kerry N6WU*

I would like to share an experience with you that occurred last night. I had just finished a nice QSO with a ham on 3.553 MHz. The time was about 0540Z when the QSO was over and I was about ready to close down for the evening. A station called me, identifying as KD4NGI/MM. I responded to the call and we exchange names and signal reports. The name of the operator was Tom, and gave his location as 16N-119W. He asked me if I could relay a message for him on behalf of his Captain. I was a little nervous as I don't usually pass messages. He said the message was urgent, so I told him to tell me what he wanted me to do. Tom sent me the following message:

"U.S.C.G. Alameda that our vessel has diverted to position requested and our ETA is 1736Z. will advise findings and situation of fishing vessel adrift. Regards Master Hayes on the MVTITUS. The tel number is 510 437 3701."

I asked Tom to confirm the name of his ship MVTITUS and to confirm the tel number as 510 437 3701. Tom confirmed as requested. He also said to ask for the Watch Officer when I made the call. I told Tom to standby and I would confirm that his message had been relayed to the U.S.C.G. I then telephoned the Alameda Station and spoke with a Lieutenant, giving him my name and Amateur Radio Call. I then told him that I had an urgent message from a vessel. I relayed the exact message from Tom, the Lieutenant asked for a repeat and then confirmed. I then recontacted Tom and told him that his message had been relayed and confirmed by the U.S.C.G. Alameda per his request.

Tom asked me to standby as he needed to tell his Captain that the message had been passed and confirmed. A few minutes passed before Tom came back on the air. Tom said that the Satellite Comm gear was down and they had no communications. Tom went on to say that they were now heading to the fishing vessel called QUYNH VEE.

Tom thanked me on behalf of the Captain and Crew for getting the message through. I told Tom that his Captain was very lucky to have such a fine CW operator aboard his vessel, and how important it was to maintain HF CW operations at sea. Tom agreed, we chuckled because he told be about his old Kenwood rig that had been around for many years. I told Tom that he should go hit his Captain up for a new rig!

Our QSO ended, I let out a heavy sigh just realizing that I had passed urgent traffic. It felt real good knowing that once again Ham Radio & CW came to the rescue! Sincerely, Kerry Freeman, N6WU

### **LOST QSLs!**

**Jim, WD8NES, lost a batch of QSL cards from the Bureau due to damage to his envelope. Almost the whole bottom side of the envelope was torn off and there were no cards left in the envelope when he received it. There were probably 15 cards in the envelope when mailed. If you recently sent Jim a QSL via the Bureau, please send him a replacement card!**



## FOR SALE

Ralph W8LHG is selling about half of his collection of telegraph equipment. I've already been over to his QTH and bought my share, hi, but there is still a lot left! This is a terrific opportunity to add to your collection and get that bug you've always wanted. He has several J-38 straight keys, in case you don't have a straight key for emergency backup when your automatic keyer blows a gasket! The items for sale include:

Vibroplex Bugs, various hand keys, couple of paddles, LandLine Telegraph equipment, including many sounders.

No phone or Email, pse - SASE, snailmail only to Ralph R. Caryl, 316 Juniper Drive, Davison MI 48423

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Two very nice iambic paddles for sale: A German Shurr "Profi" beautiful solid machined brass paddle with removable hinged plexiglas dust cover. \$200 shipped in con US.

A Russian "KEY-8" chromed paddle with internal keyer, which is disconnected and wired for external iambic keyer. With Russian manual and schematic. \$100 shipped in conUS. Contact Paul Goemans, WA9PWP, at jgoemans@facstaff.wisc.edu or 1508 Sundt Lane, Stoughton WI. 53589 608-877-4151

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### Wanted

Vibroplex Lightning Bug with green painted base in mint/good condition. Contact Don Village K6PBQ, 3290 Woody Lane, San Jose CA 95132; phone is 408-263-2789

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Original knobs for flameproof keys. Those are the types that have a round flat base and a high rounded knob. Dennis, K6DF, <k6df@home.com> or callbook.

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John KB0UFB, is looking for people who want to play chess using CW. Contact him at John Telker, 1311 Merritt, Malden MO 63863

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Greg WB9MMI is looking for black plastic similar to a J38 base. If anyone has some or knows where he can get some pls reply to : WB9MII@AOL.COM or Greg WB9MII, 262 Juniper St, Park Forest, IL 60466 He has a pump handle or two he wants to remount.

## Thank You

Tim AC5SH (ex KC5QBU) credits FISTS, particularly the Slochat ops, as being very helpful in making his upgrade. He's grateful and also proud to be a member, and says "I really was concerned that I would not make it to extra before the upcoming changes which will probably mean the end of the 20 wpm code test. I believe Fists played a significant part in getting me over the hump."

"I have to thank my Elmer Casey Bahr, KS7J, (FISTS Nr 3648), my FISTS Code Buddy Jere Dillon, K5JER(2439) and Bud McClure, K5IUO(4267) for the invaluable help and motivation they gave to me for the past eight months. FISTS is a great organization and I am very proud to be a part of it."73, Eli Lustig, KF4YOG/AG

"Just got home and was going through today's mail. I must admit that my curiosity was aroused when I got to your package. After opening it, I was very pleased to learn I was the winner of the January Photopage drawing. I've got the perfect jacket for the FISTS patch and putting the stickers to use will be easy. Anyway, just wanted to drop you a line and say THANKS." Gary, KA8RIQ

It is nice to see the comments from the 058's in recent issues of the Keynote. I've known many fine fellows and gals in my ex-Navy days as a CT-R. Served mostly aboard ship in the South Atlantic back in the 60's. Thanks to FISTS I've been running into a lot of long lost friends. Gordon W3DCN

Just got my copy of the Keynote. Wanted you to know that I think this issue terrific and will stay on my radio table to make my life much more simple. I was looking for a list to keep a record of the FISTS I QSO'd with. Thank you and keep up the wonderful work. I have met some wonderful people on the air, who were willing to not just get the "numbers" and run onto the next QSO. Have had some great ragchews, and look forward to many more. Aron N1ODL FISTS#4110

**"Be there a man with soul so dead  
The only perfect CW is what's in his head...."**  
de KA8OQF

This month I have no specific topic in mind, so let me get caught up on a mixture of things.

It looks like Nancy wants me to get a vanity call. At least my call showed up in issue 10 as KK3WP. HI. I couldn't figure out why I was getting mail addressed to KK3WP till K2RES pointed out the error to me.

I was very surprised how many of you wrote about the zero beat device I described a few months ago. Everyone who responded sent the requested SASE and extra stamp for the info. I appreciate that. I am curious now to know if anyone has built and tested the device. If so, let me know how it works. I also got some response when I mentioned info about QRP rigs. A few of you wrote to ask me for more info. What I did in that case was to make a printed copy of the info I have on my web site and mailed it to those who wanted it. If anyone else doesn't have internet access and wants a copy, I'll be glad to provide one for an SASE. It is simply a listing of all of the QRP rigs that I am aware of with a capsule summary of each one including price, bands covered, address of the manufacturing company, etc. Also I constantly get response telling me how much you enjoy reading the column each month. That comes via Email, regular mail, comments on my web site, on-the-air QSO's, etc. It has gotten to the point where I can't acknowledge each comment individually, so let me take this opportunity to say thanks to each and every one who has commented on the column. For the record, over 99 percent of the comments have been very favorable.

Here is just one of the many comments that I picked at random to put in this column. Hello John. First of all I enjoy Your column in the Keynote. Keep up the good work. I built my first (and only) QRP rig last January. Have always operated QRO. Had lots of fun building it and made a local QSO to help get it tuned up. Made a dipole for it one cold night then put the whole thing away until one hot day this summer. I got it out on the back porch, removed a battery from our alarm system, and threw the dipole up into the trees behind the house (20 meter only). Tried to answer a couple CQs but got stepped on by bigger stations. The band was VERY busy. I finally found an empty spot and called CQ myself. Wonder of Wonders I got

an immediate response. That QSO was followed by many others until my hand would not function any longer. QRP WORKS. My rig is an Oak Hills Research 100A for 20 meters. It was missing a few components but an e-mail to them brought the items in quick order. It went together easy and only needed another rig with digital VFO for tune up. My only comment on its operation is the side-tone sounds a little odd (I only have a big Yaesu to compare to so maybe this is normal.) 73 es hope to hear u on the bands Duane KT4XE nr 3494.

Yes Duane, and others - QRP does work. It's working even better now with increasing sunspots and improving propagation conditions. I have found 10M to be especially good for QRP operation. Someone once told me you could easily get DXCC on 10M using 1 watt and a coathanger for an antenna when the sunspot cycle is near its peak. I thought he was just kidding at the time since we were in the depths of the sunspot minimum when he told me that. After the past 6 months or so on 10M though, I believe that probably is true. 10M isn't open day in and day out, but when the solar flux gets up around 150 or more and the ionosphere stays quiet, it opens up very nicely. I have worked 70 countries there during the last half of 1998 or so. Many of the QSO's came very easily. The band can be strange at times, though. I recall in the California QSO party, the CA stations were coming in S9 here on Saturday afternoon, but I could not work them. They just weren't hearing me.

At the same time, VK4XA was calling CQ with about an S4 signal here. I decided to call him just for fun, and got him easily on the first call. He copied me very well during our short QSO. On Sunday afternoon, the CA signals were only S5 or S6. However I worked every one that I heard. I have also noted that same behavior at other times on 10M. Seems to be some sort of one-way skip. Another time on 10M, I had been on 80M the night before with my drive turned down for that band. I didn't realize this when I heard A45XR calling CQ on 10, and hurried to call him. Well, I got him on the first try, and found out a little later, I was only running around 2 watts output because of the still reduced drive. Remember all of this is just at the beginning stages of the sunspot cycle 23 peak. So conditions will continue to get better and better on 10M.

If you're thinking of getting a QRP rig, and looking at a single band unit, perhaps a 10M unit would be a good choice if you are interested in QRP Dxing. Have any questions about QRP or any ideas for a topic for a future column? I'd like to hear from you. As always you can contact me in any one of 3 ways - my web site at [www.alltel.net/~johnshan](http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan) - via Email at [johnshan@alltel.net](mailto:johnshan@alltel.net) - through the regular mail system at John Shannon, 478 E.

High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Till next month, 73 and good DX. -30-

### **WBL Paddle Review** *by Jim K7JIH*

WBL Design Paddles Golfers, hunters, and CW ops all have one thing in common. They seek the perfect set of clubs, the right firearm, or the utopian paddle. Such idealistic devices don't really exist but that never stops the search. Many CW ops are haunted with the belief that there MAY be something out there that is superior to their present paddle or straight key.

Deep in Hoosier Country a one man design and manufacturing facility exists. Do they make the perfect paddle? Will a person's competence increase by a quantum amount if a WBL paddle is on their operating desk? Maybe!

The V22 and the V2 paddles share a common design. They are vertical paddles with a small (2 1/2" x 3") footprint. It is just 3" high. Why vertical? The contact spacing and the tension spring controls are so convenient that they can be manipulated while sending. The adjustments are made with knurled wheels and there are even little tiny nylon balls in the spacing adjustments so that the threads are not damaged. How about the "feel" in sending? Does it feel different? No, it doesn't change the tactile sense that exists with the sideswipers and the teeter-totter designs. In other words, it feels normal.

The paddles themselves are made of Cocobola wood. Sounds exotic. It is. Most designs use plastic in one form or another. Plastic has a tendency to stick to the thumb and finger. The faster the manipulation of the key the greater the tendency. No so with Cocobola wood. It feels good like a car feels when it hugs the road.

The control factor comes to play here. The edges of the paddles are rounded nicely and are adjustable. The spacing between the right and left paddles can be changed from a half-inch to 7/8" by .016" increments and the paddle may be moved up or down as well. Talk about adjustments available to the operator. With these two adjustments you can get the feel "on the money."

The frame of the paddle is made of half inch black steel with brass components attached. The contacts are solid gold made from W.E. Alloy #1 69% gold, 25% silver, and 6% platinum. All stainless steel screws are used. On the back of the paddle are gold plated RCA jacks for easy polarity changes.

The paddles come with an Allen wrench to adjust the placement of the finger paddles. The other adjustments are made with a knurled wheel as was said before. You also get a spare set of feet and a spare knurled wheel. WBL Designs makes two models.

The V22 used two springs: one for each side of the paddle while the VK2 uses only one spring. The V22 (dual spring) cost is only \$130.00 plus \$6.00 shipping. The V2 (single spring) is \$110.00 plus \$6.00 shipping. WBL Design takes MC and VISA. Their number is 1 (800) 726-8936 and their address is 6345 Coffman Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268-2591.

Is there any bad news here? Only one. If you want a WBL Design paddle get used to delayed gratification. Because of the low cost and high popularity you may experience a wait.

### **Propagation Question**

From Perley, N1YUK: I have been trying for some time now to finish out my WAS list. I am not having any luck with Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and of course Hawaii. Could someone tell me the best time of the day (or night) to contact these states, and the best frequency(ies) from my QTH here in Maine? Much obliged. Perley, N1YUK, member #4274. PS, I'm having loads of fun, and meeting very nice hams with FISTS.

## A Ham's Poem

*Compliments of W8RHZ (late) VE3DQG, VE3V DX*

When you lose the thrill of a QSO  
With a W-one or two,  
When the fact that you're heard in some far  
distant land  
Just don't mean a thing to you--

When sending a card is a burdensome task  
And a listeners card is taboo  
It's time you pulled switches and closed up  
your shack  
For there's nothing in this game for you.

When you snub a beginner, when a "chirp"  
is a crime  
And a "QRS" plea you abhor,  
You better get out of ham radio, friend  
For there's no more fun for you anymore.

I just love to be told, "You're my first VE3",  
If he only lives over the line;  
The pleasure of working a chirpy DC  
Is a thrill, boy, to me anytime.

I like to "pipe down", send slow to a kid;  
Sure -- and tell him his keying is fine.  
And when he comes out with that "Pse QSL"  
Believe me, the pleasures all mine.

If you would enjoy this old radio game  
Just pause and hark back o'er the years  
When you hooked a "seven", you thought  
you'd done fine  
And to lose him just almost brought tears.

You've got to think back to your old lid days  
again  
and remember that this is quite true,  
You must do unto others in this Amateur  
World  
As you'd have them do unto you.

## Frozen Finger Tips and Mobile CW by Vance, N8UGV

What a winter, eh?! So far plenty of snow and cold temperatures. It was with the cold temperatures that my dilemma began. This past summer my wife and I purchased our first home. Just enough room to live comfortably but unfortunately not enough room to easily have the shack inside. So, I opted to put it in the garage and build a small room to enclose the equipment.

As with most of my best laid plans the tiny room never developed prior to the onset of chilly temps. Owning a newer model HF mobile rig I rehashed the idea of using it as a base station versus putting it into the car. It had been a major idea when I originally bought it but chose to use it to replace my aging 35 lbs HF rig. The mobile idea was pushed to the side and the rig was put to use, with excellent results, as a base station.

Then winter finally chose to arrive and basically froze me out of my "shack" not to mention a friend and FISTS member, Bill - K8FLY, put his HF mobile rig in the vehicle and was bragging about how much fun it was. What to do, wait until spring and the arrival of warmer climes before operating or devise some other devious plan that would certainly raise the hackles of a certain other family member whom might drive the car. I chose the later - after all, the couch is pretty comfortable at night!

After doing some research an acceptable, if not preferable, HF mobile antenna was chosen. Inexpensive enough to more or less mute the argument of being too costly yet endorsed enough to lead me to believe they were a quality series of antennas. Antennas were purchased for 40m, 10m and 6m; however, 15m would have been the preference in place of the 10m but they were on back order and at this point the adrenalin was starting to surge. When the packages FINALLY arrived I set to work.

The preliminary installation came to be with surprising little effort and only one fuse blown. My fault, should have disconnected the power PRIOR to running the wiring. Duely noted for future projects. Regardless, the HF rig was in the car, next was the antenna set up. This vehicle was set to be replaced within the next

few months so drilling a hole really was not a valid option. A "U-bolt" mount was used and attached to the luggage rack. In turn a ground was run from the mount to the body of the car and attached with a screw holding some molding in place. The coax was run through the door where it meets the frame and in a location that would prevent crimping as the door was opened and closed. Everything was in place. With trembling hands I reached for the 40m antenna.

Within a matter of minutes the antenna was tuned to an acceptably low SWR using an antenna analyzer - a piece of equipment as important to me as an SWR meter. Nervously I jumped over to one of the local repeaters calling K8FLY to give him the honor of my first "mobile" contact. No answer from Bill but 2 other local hams gave me a call; however, they were not in a position to try HF. My hopes were starting to be dashed then the "FLY" broke into the conversation and quickly agreed to give it a try. I suggested a SSB contact first to see if anything was going to start burning, smoking, or any other unexpected result. NONE! So far, a success. Then I suggested we attempt a CW contact. With a quick retuning of the antenna and a spin of a dial the sweet sound of "N8UGV/M de K8FLY" came across the speaker. Bill and I chatted on for several minutes as I kept an eye on all the parts involved. No heating, no fuses blown and great signal reports. 40m at less than 10 miles apart does tend to provide good conditions - HI! It was difficult to contain my excitement. Before shutting everything down for the evening I put on the 10m antenna and worked a California station. Ah, sweet success - but that is only a beginning.

In the couple of weeks I have been HF mobile, I have had the honor of working several other FISTS members including KO6TQ - Cindy, W1XU - Ben, K8FLY/M - Bill (my first mobile to mobile contact - tnx agn Bill!), and G0TBD - Terry. Yes! DX again and my fingers are not even freezing to the metal base of the key! Of all my signal reports thus far have been very good, my lowest is a 529 from a German station. I have also worked France and Poland - all mobile. I would have never guessed it possible. Additionally I have had the very pleasant opportunity to work 2 QRP stations while mobile. All contacts CW and a smile to show it.

So if you are faced with a situation similar to mine,

try HF mobile! I operate most everyday to and from work, on the way to the store, or a quick drive to the shore of Lake Michigan to operate "portable". Enroute to work around 1900 UTC I can be found near either 7.0580 or 28.0580 calling CQ. Homeward bound around 0300 UTC I will be on 40m. Obviously the time of day directly influences my choice of bands to run. Not to mention CW/M seems to hold up very well to the rapid mobile QSB and QRN crashes from overhead power lines and transfer stations.

I am still adjusting to the finer points of CW mobile. If you hear me make a long pause - I am trying to navigate some sort of traffic related obstacle. Be patient with the occasional error as not all of Michigan roads are in prime condition and pot holes do incredible things to one's composure when struck at 40+ mph. The road is the number one priority, but a great HF CW mobile contact comes in a very close second.

### **V21CW DXpedition**

*by Grant K2ACW*

I will be traveling again and wanted to let FISTS members know in case any of them need Antigua (V2) for a new one. I will be V21CW from March 26 till April 11, 1999 operating from my vacation QTH on Antigua Island (NA-100) in the Caribbean. Hope to work all my friends in the FISTS CW Club again.

Look for me on 10 thru 80 meters, including WARC bands, and I will frequent the usual FISTS frequencies. On 12 meters I will use 24.918, 17 meters 18.088, and 30 meters 10.118. I will also be looking for

Novices/Techs on the novice bands. This will be a CW only operation combined with my vacation.

QSL is via my new call N4GM or old call K2ACW. FISTS members can send their QSLs to the FISTS QSL Bureau and Stan, K4UK, will forward any V21CW QSLs (from FISTS members only) to me.

Direct QSL's will go to: N4GM, Grant Mitchell  
8456 NW 34 Manor, Sunrise, FL 33351

73,  
Grant, N4GM  
FISTS #2573

## **The Hawaii FISTS QSO Party**

*by Mike Burger AH7R #3225*

The first Hawaii FISTS QSO party was a howling success. Many valuable lessons were learned.

I (AH7R) tested out the 15 meter station at KH7R the night before and worked a couple of contacts getting the CT program checked out and the rig (FT1000-MP) and antennas (8-element monobanders, one spin, one fixed on USA and one fixed on JA) sorted out. I was using about 60 watts at that time and worked both the Mainland (Dave W8III) and Japan (Jun 7K3NFY).

Saturday morning, I started getting ready about 1800 Z (0800 HST) and with help from someone familiar with the Henry amp, got set up at about 800 watts, being worried that no one would be able to hear me with the top two 8-element monobanders pointed at the USA and phased.

Lesson Number 1: That is a LOT of ERP!!!, especially on CW.

I usually run QRP on a pair of Hustler whips on a concrete condo balcony in urban Honolulu, so how was I to know?

I heard Stan, K4UK, calling about 1830 and sent him a call to see if he could hear me mobile in Florida. No problem there, much better signal than when we worked from my condo. Right after I signed with him, it began.

First a couple, then a lot, then a howl, then a near continuous tone as I worked some stations and 1900 Z, the appointed starting time, approached. At 1900 I was ready to panic. The 500 Hz filter was emitting a steady tone within a Kc either side of 21.058. I could not make out individual code characters much less callsigns.

"I am going to get lynched!!!" was all I could think of.

Lesson Number 2: You probably should not make a sked with the entire Mainland USA FISTS population.

I had enough sense to set the transmit on the sub-VFO and leave the main VFO for receive. By setting the filter to the 250 Hz setting and using tiny moves on the knob I could find places where I was hearing no more than a half dozen callsigns at once. I started picking out callsigns and answering.

Lesson Number 3: The better you know your rig's features, the better you will do in a tough situation.

Thank goodness for well behaved FISTS operators. As soon as I would send a callsign, things would get very quiet. The vast majority of the time I had little trouble copying the station called. The big problem was finding a valid callsign or reasonable chunk of one I could send with a question mark. About one third of the time was spent trying to sort out a callsign to send. Once I got a handle on a call, making a contact was usually routine.

Lesson Number 4: Nothing is possible without considerate operation and cooperation in a situation like this.

Many times I felt like I was running a lottery, selecting winners from a crowd of players. Sometimes I worked in one tiny frequency window, sometimes in another, moving about trying to isolate a callsign to answer, leaving the transmit frequency parked. Now I have first hand experience at what the big DXpeditions must have to contend with for days on end. By 2100 Z, I was mentally and physically used up.

When I sorted through the log I had several non-FISTS contacts and a depressing low number of FISTS log entries, only 40. On the one hand that is 40 more people with Hawaii for WAS, on the other hand I am sorry I was not able to work the hundreds of others who must have been in that pileup. I have to attribute much of that to never having to deal with a pileup like this before, at least not on the receiving end! I programmed a CQ FISTS message, which gives you an idea of how far off my expectations were from the reality. I used it once in 2.5 hours.

Lesson Number 5: The best laid plans of mice and men...

I did work 24 states and one DX country Saturday

morning however, so the contacts were scattered around pretty good. Many were new states for me, and I was able to increase my FISTS points enough to get my Century Club Award. I worked at least one FISTS affiliated club station.

AR, CA, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, GA, MD, MI, MS, NE, NJ, NY, PA, SC, OH, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV, and Panama (Camilo HP1AC).

Meanwhile Jim (KH7M) was having a similar experience on Kauai, but a bit toned down, apparently due to less solid propagation. Jim reports that he worked another 18 FISTS contacts on 20 meters, the majority people whom I did not work on 15 meters. Jim was running 100 watts into a Force 12 beam about 100 miles west of me on Kauai. We were both in Grid BL01, however.

Obviously demand still exceeds supply for Hawaii FISTS contacts, and we need to think about doing this sort of thing again.

A special thanks to Ken, KH7R, and the rest of the crew at that great contest station above Waimea Bay, for delaying tower work, use of facilities and help getting set up on Saturday. It was a real experience to use an optimal station, though my enthusiasm for QRP is undamaged. I remember how hard and stressful the 20 WPM code test was. I failed it three times, and had to go back four months in a row before I finally completed it. Saturday listening to the explosion of sound gushing out of the FT1000-MP, I was thinking how tranquil that test experience was by comparison.

Final Lesson: Passing the licensing code test is just the starting point in learning to work CW on the air.

It is with sadness that I have to advise you of a very good friend of mine, and an Excellent Amateur who really loved CW. was active on the cw bands. Harry O Fowler Fists number 1559 became a silent key Sunday, Feb 21, 1999

Harry will be missed by all. 73's Richard  
KE4HZM

## New FISTS Award Certificates

The DX FISTS Awards Manager is now offering three new Awards. Bob G0FRL writes:

### *New Awards are as follows:*

Silver: 250 points (those who have already gained Gold Award if they so wish may send for Silver Award.)

250 Century Award : 250 contacts of Century Award holders.

500 Century Award : 500 contacts of Century Award holders.

To summarize, the British-issued awards are:  
Platinum Award is for 100 Century Award holder contacts.

250 Century Award is for 250 Century Award holder contacts. (NEW)

500 Century Award is for 500 Century Award holder contacts. (NEW)

Silver Award is for 250 points. (NEW)

Gold Award is for 500 points

Diamond Award 1000points.

*There is no starting date for the basic Century, Gold and Diamond.*

### **THESE AWARDS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE WITH A QRP ENDORSEMENT**

Cost of Awards will be \$5 Americas and Europe or 8 IRCs; £2 or 7 IRCs for Great Britain.

This cost will apply to all Awards issued in England

The Basic Century, Rag Chewers, and Mobile Awards are still available free of charge to FISTS with current (paid-up) subs, from Joe N3LBC.

K9CNP advises that member Frank Kosci ND9X is a silent key. Sorry, but I don't have any further information.

## Fall Sprint Results

In case you missed it, here are the results of the Fall Sprint:

Call	QSO's	Pts	Mult	Total Score
N2ED	100	440	47	20680
K2ACW	84	369	30	12915
W8EQA/Nov.	72	330	36	11880
WA7YYY	68	298	31	9238
W9YYG	57	279	33	9207
W8FAX	36	171	21	3591
AA9KH	34	164	18	2952
KQ6ES	33	159	18	2862
WA6RND	31	149	19	2831
AF5Z	35	169	15	2535
KC2AFK	29	133	17	2261
AA1KF	25	110	20	2200
WD8OCV/qrp	25	122	16	1952
KC0M	25	116	15	1740
WC4CW	26	124	14	1736
K1NAJ	20	82	12	984
K8UCL	18	87	11	957
W8BL	14	70	12	840
W4GTM	18	84	10	840
W3DCN	18	84	10	840
N0IBT/qrp	15	75	11	825
KA1OX	14	67	11	737
KF2G	13	65	9	585
KB8KIK	12	54	9	486
N2ZHF	12	60	8	480
PA3AFF	6	30	6	180
KB5VTB	5	19	5	95
KF6SCZ	2	15	2	30
KD7BOD	1	2	1	2

## Spring Sprint by Al W8FAX

Its time to get for the FISTS Spring Sprint again. This is a short contest that takes place on May 8, 1999 from 1700 until 2100 Z. Complete rules can be found at the FISTS web site, <http://www.fists.org/springs.html>. Also, a complete set of rules is included in the Key-note, or send a SASE to me.

This is a fun contest that is short so that it will not have to compete for time from your spring chores.(too much). Extra points are given for working novice and tech/plus licensees. I would like to propose that we,

as operators, make more of an effort to utilize the novice band areas. In the past, there is so much QRM around the .058 frequencies that it turns into a power struggle.

There is PLENTY of room in the sub bands, and will also give them some use. Send your logs to me within 30 days of the contest. I must ask that you send paper logs ONLY. Computer discs are not acceptable. Please show your class and the formula you used to arrive at your score. Logs will be spot checked for accuracy, and certificates will be awarded in all classes. PLEASE remember to state if you are QRP. If you don't, you will be considered QRO and there is no changing once I receive the logs. NO exceptions. If you want your log returned, please say so, and include a SASE and I will return it to you. Send your log, score, and comments to: Alan M. Tanner 3787 Trebein Rd ,Fairborn, OH 45324 Have fun and hope to work you....73 Al/W8FAX

## 1999 FISTS Novice RoundUp by Dennis Franklin K6DF

The 1999 FISTS Novice RoundUp was the best FISTS NR yet, in spite of the lack of publicity in the major magazines. The activity on the bands was simply outstanding! I copied the mail on several good QSO's. Many took the time to have a nice rag chew with the other station working the NR contest. It seemed like everyone was having a great time.

Last year we received only 16 logs for NR. This year, we had 34 logs submitted! I fully expected more logs than 34 with all the activity I heard on the Novice bands. I must say that most of the logs were done very well with only one exception . . . and that was the log sent in by Barbara Schuyler, N9EXY. Her log was OUTSTANDING! Everything was done exactly right, easy to read, and well organized. No corrections were needed for N9EXY's log. The one thing that was lacking in most logs was the "Operator License Class" for the station submitting the log. Thank you, to everyone who submitted a log whether by snail mail or e-mail. You made this NR a success!

There was some confusion about the scoring this year. There were a total of 50 multipliers. Some logs scored DX and states as multipliers, other logs just used states. The only multipliers allowed were 1 for each



of the 50 states. DX countries were not allowed as multipliers. I carefully checked and scored each of the logs the same way. Some of the scores below may be higher or lower than that which you submitted. I assure you, I went through each and every log and scored them according to the same standard.

Here's the final tally for the 1999 FISTS Novice RoundUp:

Top Scoring Novice Station: WB6SZZ, Ray Salvo

Top Scoring Technician Station: KC8GLV, Jim Stoshak

Two stations tied, listed in alphabetical order, for the honor of Top Scoring Non-Novice/Tech Station:

HP1AC - Cam Castillo

W6DDB - Bill Welsh

Congratulations to the four "Top Score" Stations. Each will receive a FREE One Year Membership in FISTS and a TOP SCORE NR certificate!

Last, but not least, I would like to point out one score. Take a look at the bottom most score. Yes, that's right, the one for KE3CR. Only 20 points earned. Giles only worked 2 stations, both Novice. Now, I know some of you are thinking. "I worked more than two stations I wouldn't have sent my log in for only 20 points". The point I'm trying to make here is, Giles made the effort to work a couple of stations with his limited time, and, more importantly, he sent in his log. Where is your log? I copied many stations making QSO's for NR, but I don't see their call signs in the listings.

Hopefully we will get better publicity for next years NR. We may have to make some changes in the rules, name, etc., in order to adapt to the new license structure. Thanks to everyone for a very successful NR. CU next year! 73 Dennis K6DF NR Manager

### FISTS Novice RoundUp Results

#### Novice / Tech Category

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
WB6SZZ - N Ray Salvo		3042
KB2QCW - N Tom Carter		2640
KC8GLV - T Jim Stoshak		473
KF4ZEO - T Jill Dybka		387
N5OBC - T Mark Hogan		182
KF6QKA - T Gordon Reese		80
KB0JSH Amanda Hendrick - Check Log Only		

#### Non Novice / Tech Category

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
W6DDB William Welsh		7440
HP1AC Camilo Castillo		7440
WA2BQI Bud Peterson		5076
W4YE Leland Smith		2376
K3NY Nick Yokanovich		2350
KG4BIG Ken Wilson		2331
N8WZD Craig McVey		1974
AF4IX Karl Klingman		1938
AE4NW Rick Million		1869
KC8BSC Al Krebs		1216
VE6ZAA John Elliott		1065
K4YKI Norman Smith		938
N9EXY Barbara Schuyler		780
W8BL Brian La Fontaine		720
N0ABA Stan Farley		686
WB0YPO Keith Gawlik		672
KB9BVN Brian Murrey		574
N7ELV Steve Lybarger		516
K4UK Stan Reas		484
WP4LNY Julio Medina		480
W9ISC John Welty		374
K3WWP John Shannon		370
K4STU Stu Smith		360
K6DF Dennis Franklin		296
WB9CIS John Harper		210
K8VFR Rose Robinson		100
KE3CR Giles Berry		20

### Novice RoundUp SOAP BOX:

Over heard WJ0C on 15 mtrs explaining the NR to KE6TGA . . .; KC8GLV, Jim, This was my first contest - Had a Great time! . . .; N7ELV, Steve, Is there a prize for lowest score? I had fun! . . .; KE3CR, Giles, Had very little time to operate this year . . .; K3NY, Nick, I nominate Amanda KB0JSH for best op! She was running a pile-up like a pro! . . .; N0ABA, Stan, Activity is up quite a bit from last year, everyone seemed to be having a good time . . .; KB9BVN, Brian, I had a blast and in the process got one new state! . . .; KG4BIG, Ken, Thanks for sponsoring the NR. I had a ball! . . .; K8VFR, Rose, It was great fun! . . .; N8WZD, Craig, The contest got me 8 new states, had a blast! . . .; W4YE, Buddy, Hope FISTS can continue to sponsor the NR . . .; WP4LNY, Julio, Hope this NR continues . . .; K4UK, Stan, Not many Novice/Tech stations on the air . . .; WA2BQI, Bud, Great contest this year, but Novices hard to find! . .

## Spring Sprint Rules

Sprint 1700Z to 2100Z on Sat., May 8. Sponsored by the FISTS CW Club. This is a HF CW only sprint. Everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of license class, CW speed, or club affiliation. Certificates will be awarded for high scores in each category.

**OBJECTIVE:** To exchange specified information with as many U.S. and Canadian FISTS CW Club stations as possible, using Morse code only, and within the time frame stipulated.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Any properly licensed amateur radio operator, FISTS member or non-member, is invited to take part in the contest. At least one of the two stations in each QSO must be a U.S. or Canadian station.

**DATE AND TIME:** The contest will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in May.

**BANDS:** Operation is limited to the following amateur bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. Work stations only once per band.

**CATEGORIES:** There are two categories -- QRP is limited to 5 watts output power or less; QRO is over 5 watts output power. To count as a QRP entry a station must operate QRP for the entire contest. A station cannot enter both QRP and QRO categories.

**EXCHANGE:** The following information must be exchanged by both stations to count as a valid contest QSO -- for FISTS members: RST, first name; U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country; FISTS number. For non-FISTS members: first name; U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country; Power output. Novice and Techplus stations must use /N or /T after their callsign to identify their point status.

**DX COUNTRY STATUS:** U.S. states and Canadian provinces are those states and provinces that are contiguous and found within the north American continent. Thus, KL7 is a U.S. state, VO is a Canadian province. KH6 is considered DX for the purpose of the contest, and U.S. dependencies in the Caribbean are also considered DX countries.

**SCORING: QSO POINTS:** For stations holding General Class licenses or higher, each QSO with a FISTS member counts 5 points. Each QSO with a Novice or Techplus FISTS member counts 10 points. Each QSO with a Novice or Techplus non-FISTS member, counts 5 points. Each QSO with a non-FISTS member, General Class or higher counts 2 points. For stations holding a Novice or Techplus Class license, count

10 points per QSO with FISTS members, and 5 points per QSO with non-FISTS.

**MULTIPLIERS:** Each U.S. state or Canadian province counts as one multiplier — count each only once, no matter how many times worked. DX countries count as a multiplier each time worked. If a DX station is worked on different bands, each QSO counts as a multiplier. Similarly, two or more DX QSOs from different stations in the same DX country, each counts as a separate multiplier.

**FINAL SCORE:** Equals QSO points times Multipliers. Logs must show all exchange information, mark Novice/Techplus stations worked as /N or /T. Novice and Techplus stations submitting logs must indicate their license class status on those logs. QRP stations must indicate their power status on their logs. Logs without such an indication will be considered QRO status.

**LOGS:** Only paper logs will be accepted. Please do not send computer discs. They will not be considered for the Sprint, and will not be returned. Send logs within thirty days of the Sprint, showing license class and power output and your score calculation to: Alan Tanner, 3787 Trebein Rd, Fariborn, OH 45324. For a copy of the Sprint rules send a business size SASE to the same address or visit the FISTS web page at <http://www.fists.org>

### A T-shirt testimonial

by Frank N5SAN

Today, I wore my FISTS T-shirt for the first time. I took the plunge and wore it to the Russellville, AR hamfest. It was a crisp 33 degrees when I got out of the van; but I warmed up quickly with the interest I received concerning my "electric blue FISTS T-shirt".

All day long I was stopped and asked such questions as: Are you a FISTS member?...and I met some FISTS members that way. What is a FISTS club? What does a fist mean in ham radio? How can I get one of those shirts? and the BIGGIE question...How do I join?

I must say, the best comment of the day was from a lady who looked me up and down and said "if it ain't CW, then it's CB". Wearing the shirt made a good hamfest even better.

**FISTS T-Shirts are still available - get yours before they're gone.  
Size Small is already sold out!**

## BUG HERE IS AN EARWIG

by Dennis Franklin K6DF #3076

A few days into the new year I was having a very nice QSO with another FISTS station on 20 meters. We had been chatting for about 50 minutes when the display on my Kenwood TS-450 caught my eye. It was very subtle...something changed on the display. While still copying the CW from the headphones I stared at the rig's display. Hummmmm ...nothing out of place...must be seeing things. I went back to jotting down some things on paper...OK, it's my turn now, but WAIT! The display moved? While operating the key with one hand I put my glasses on with the other.

There it is! A segment from one digit blinked out and then on again. Ooooh, no, don't tell me I've got a display problem. Boy! I wonder what the parts are going to cost to fix...there it is again, but a different segment of a different digit! Then I see segments winking off and on in succession from one digit to the next!!! This is worse than I thought. Then everything seems to be normal again. I finish with my QSO and decide that other than going crazy, (which will get my wife's vote), a glass of wine and CW just don't mix.

I hear another station calling me, and start into another QSO. While part way through sending my QTH I suddenly see a very fine black line sweeping across one of my display digits. Now this is really getting strange! I try to see into the rig's display but the dark plastic cover makes it very difficult. Still trying to send somewhat coherent CW I ask my son to get a flashlight. Shining the flashlight into the display reveals the problem.

There's a BUG in my rig! There, in the display area, is an Earwig! (Some people call them "pincher bugs" because they have a pair of forcep pinchers on the rear end of their abdomen.) Now, I'm concerned. I don't want to cut my QSO so short as to appear rude and at the same time I don't want this "bug" to go somewhere else in the radio and really ruin something while I'm transmitting. Well, I keep the flashlight on him, and tactfully sign off with the other station. Now the fun part . . .

How do I get this "bug" out of the display, and do it in such a way that I don't lose track of him. V e r y, carefully, as if I were handling an unexploded bomb,

I disconnect all the cables from the radio. I don't want this fellow to get out on the desk and scurry off into another piece of equipment, so I carried the rig into the bathroom. The bathroom floor is the perfect place...ha-ha!...I can see anything that moves, four feet in any direction. Ever so carefully I start dismantling the transceiver.

Anyone in Explosive Ordinance Disposal would have marveled at my steadiness of hand and the skill at which I took the radio apart. At last! I slowly inched the front display facing up and off the rig. There, still resting on the display was the Earwig. With a surgeon's accuracy I capture and remove the threatening beast using but a single square piece of paper from the nearby roll of 1000. I deftly deposited the menace in a nearby Earwig sized swimming pool, and with a flip of the lever, he was gone!

Wiping nervous sweat from my brow I looked back at the bathroom floor . . . nothing but radio parts wall to wall...hummmmm. This could be interesting!

Well, I'm happy to say, the parts were all successfully reunited, and the Kenwood was back on the air later that same night. Now, when other operators talk about the bug their using, I grin and think back to my evening with the "Earwig" bug,

P.S. The TS-450 works great, . . . now that I've got all the bug's out of it. Sorry, I just couldn't pass that line up!

### A FISTS Wedding

It wasn't just a rumor after all, it's true -- we've had ANOTHER FISTS wedding! Maggie WP2T and Greg NP2GQ tied the knot on July 11, 1998 in Miami Florida. Don KC4UUG gave the bride away, Klaus KP2O was best man, Dick N4BEF, his wife Vicki and George N1DNM attended from Maine.

Maggie and Greg will be moving from the USVI to Illinois this month and would like to hear from FISTS friends. Their address is Putman/Cichy, 502 Margarita Rd, Elgin IL 60123.

They will be at the Hamvention in May. Maggie has been very active in FISTS over the years. I'm looking forward to finally having an eyeball QSO with her. Congratulations, Maggie and Greg!

### **Congratulations**

To Nancy **KC4IYD**, #4533 on the birth of her first child on Dec 20 - Carol Stephanie Hall, 7 lb, 6 oz!  
To Eli, **KF4YOG** on passing his General!  
To Christopher, **W4CMS**, #4318 on his upgrade to Advance with 20wpm code!  
To Dave, **KC2AFK**, #3922 on passing his Advanced!  
To Tony, **KE6YNR**, on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Henry, **KC5MGR**, # 5162 on passing his Advanced and 20 wpm. Good luck on the written Extra, Henry!  
Richard, **WB6JGD**, # 5726 passed both his Advanced and Extra in January!  
To Wayne, **N2EWE**, #5998 on passing his Extra!  
Jeff, **N9ZUT**, #3837, upgraded to Extra and would like to thank our fellow FISTS members who gave him alot of on-air practice!  
To Mike, **K4YDK**, upgraded to Extra!  
To Rich, **K6JGD**, #5726 on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Jim, **AF4NS**, #1981 on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Stan, **K4UK**, for earning A1-Op status!

### **FISTS Code Buddy Program** *By John W9EM*

Hello FISTS! I imagine everyone is getting excited that spring is right around the corner. I want to thank all of the members that responded to my plea last month. We had a number of experienced volunteers and several new students applications.

Last month the Code Buddy database contained two hundred and nine participants. We are now at two hundred and twenty six. Good growth for a single month and we made about thirty assignments, a busy month with a new milestone.

I have completed the assignments for everyone I have in my file, all teachers and all students. This is the first time my pending file is absolutely empty (as of 2/18/99) except for a couple of inactive members and a couple of members that are on hold for a variety of reasons.

If any experienced operators are interested, we could still use your help. I get applications from members looking for help almost every week. Please send your application to me and by the time I receive it, I'm sure I'll have a code buddy for you. If you are currently helping someone and can take on another, please let me know.

If you are a code buddy looking for help, please send it your application, but be patient. It may take a little longer than normal to find someone for you since our backlog of experienced operators is down to zero.

Thanks again for your interest and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the FISTS Code Buddy Program. 73 John - W9EM

### **Hints to Improve Your CW** *by Gilles VE2ENB*

If you have problems with fingers sticking on your key paddles that prevent good sending:  
Dip your index finger in talc, or baby, powder and rub your thumb. You will notice a very good improvement and be able to send more accurate CW. I understand many hams know about this, but I think newcomers should know it also. 73 Gilles VE3ENB

### **Abbreviations** *by Duane KG9KD*

I have tried to make this a fairly complete list, but I don't guarantee that all the regular stuff is here. Some of these are more common than others, as you will quickly notice on the air. It should be noted that even the most standard abbreviations are used less frequently in the Novice bands, where less experienced operators reside. This is OK, but as you build speed, you will find knowledge of almost everything on this list to be mandatory. Ironically, it is the slow speed ops who stand to gain the most by using abbreviations. Keep this in mind as you hit the airwaves. If you spend much time doing CW on the air, you will eventually hear all of these used, and then some. 73 ES GL- KG9KD

73 Best regards  
88 Hugs and Kisses  
ABT About  
AGN Again  
ANT Antenna  
ARND Around  
B4 Before  
BCNU Be seeing you  
BK Break, Back ("I'm back now" or "Back to you")  
BN Been  
BTR Better  
BUX Dollars  
CLDY Cloudy

**CLR** Clear (usually a description of the WX)  
**CNTCT** Contact  
**CONDX** Conditions  
**CPY, CPI** Copy  
**CU** See you.  
**CUD** Could  
**CUL** See you later.  
**CUZ** Because  
**DR** Dear (often used by DX ops in some countries in front of the other op's name)  
**ES** And  
**FB** Fine business (good; excellent; OK)  
**FER** For  
**FT** Feet  
**GA** Good afternoon; Go ahead  
**GB** God bless  
**GE** Good evening  
**GL** Good luck  
**GM** Good morning  
**GUD** Good  
**HI** Telegraphic laughing.  
**HP** Hope  
**HR** Here; hear  
**HV** Have  
**HW** How (or "How copy")  
**LIL** Little  
**MNI** Many  
**NR** Near; number  
**NW** Now  
**O 0** (usually used when stating XMTR output of 100 Watts. If using a straight key, it's also OK to use a very long dah to represent 0.)  
**OM** Old man  
**OP** (operator) Sometimes used instead of "name" when introducing oneself.  
**PSE** Please  
**PWR** Power  
**R** Are  
**RCVR** Receiver  
**SIGS** Signals  
**SN** Soon  
**SRI** Sorry  
**TMW** Tomorrow  
**TNX, TKS** Thanks  
**TU** Thank you (usually at end of contact, meaning "Thanks for the contact")  
**TX** Transmit  
**U** You  
**UR** Your; You are  
**URS** Yours

**VY** Very  
**WID** With  
**WL** Well; will; we'll  
**WTS** Watts  
**WUD** Would  
**WX** Weather  
**XCVR** Transceiver  
**XMTR** Transmitter  
**XYL** Wife  
**YL** Girlfriend ("young lady")  
**YRS** Years

### Prosign Tips

Don't neglect to learn these by sound. Knowing what they look like on the page is of little value when you are mystified by the sound of long CW characters. Knowing the rules of context that govern the use of prosigns is also very helpful.

**AAA** is the period. Use it at the end of a sentence when the following sentence will pertain to the same subject.

**AR** is used at the end of a transmission when calling a specific station before two-way contact has been established. Use it in place of K or KN when answering a CQ, or calling someone for a sked.

**AS** means "Please stand by a moment", usually used to let the other guy know you have to talk to someone in the room, or fix some technical glitch and that the band didn't fall out from under your QSO. You'll be back in just a minute.

**BT** is kind of like the period. Use it at the end of a sentence when the next sentence will pertain to a different subject.

**CL** follows SK when you are also vacating the frequency just used. Note that the letters are not run together on this one.

**DE** From

**DN** is the slash (/). It is used to indicate mobile, qrp, or operation from a different call area than that indicated by your call. In my car, I use KG9KD/M to identify myself.

**IMI** is the comma.

**K** used at the end of a transmission means you are listening for an answer from any station. Use it when calling CQ. Once you have established contact with a station and you do not want to be interrupted by a third party, use KN instead.

**KN** is used at the end of a transmission when only the other party already in the QSO is invited to re-

spond.

**R** means "Roger" or "Received". Use it at the beginning of a transmission ONLY if you copied 100% of what was just sent to you. Don't use it if anything was missed. Use BK instead, and something like "FB on UR QTH but missed UR name." You can also start a transmission with BK even if something was not missed. High speed ops often use this instead of KN and R.

**SK** is used at the end of your final transmission of a QSO. If the other station has not yet sent his "final", you may follow SK with KN.

### Commonly-used Q-signals

Q-signals followed by a question mark ask a question. Without a question mark, they answer the question, or make a statement. Complete lists of all Q-signals, most of which are rarely if ever used anymore, are in the ARRL Handbook's "References" chapter. These were widely used in the days when CW was the primary mode used by amateurs, and there were regular nets set up specifically for passing third-party traffic. This was before everybody had a telephone. In addition to Q-signals, ops handling third-party traffic via CW also used "standard message form", and made extensive use of other abbreviations pertaining specifically to the handling and routing of third-party traffic. You may see other abbreviations lists that contain "AA—all after", "AB—all before", etc. These are used for handling third-party traffic. Q-signals were (and in some cases still are) also used by CW ops in the military and on ships.

**QRJ** Your signals are too weak for me to copy.

**QRL** This frequency is in use. (Don't EVER turn on the radio and call CQ without first asking QRL?)

**QRM** I am experiencing interference from other stations.

**QRN** I am having problems with static/noise.

**QRO** Increase your/I am increasing transmit power.; I am running high power(not QRP).

**QRP** Decrease your/I am decreasing transmitter power.; I am running low power(5 watts or less for CW).

**QRQ** Send faster.

**QRS** Please send more slowly.

**QRT** I am closing down my station.

**QRX** Please stand by.; I will call you again at \_\_\_\_\_ UTC

**QRZ?** Who is calling me? (This one almost always asked as a question)

**QSB** Your signals are fading.

**QSL** I will send a QSL card.; I am acknowledging receipt.

**QST** Calling all amateurs.

**QSY** I am changing frequency to \_\_\_\_\_.

**QTH** My location is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Ham Radio Journal:

#### Adventures in Homebrewing, Part 1

*by Charles A Parmenter, ABOHQ*

I once read somewhere that we must confront our fears or forever be haunted by them; this was probably written by some fearless idiot who led a pretty tame life, but, what the hell, I'll give it a try. For me it's a childhood memory of hanging out with Dad, a master craftsman and union electrician. I was fascinated by all things electric, and he did his best to answer my questions and practically illustrate the concepts. This included having me hold a wire in each hand, and thus complete a circuit and light up a bulb. Dad was no sadist, and there was no risk or electrical shock to me. Unfortunately, it did not quite have the effect Dad desired; the result being that until he died, when I was 33, I would not change a light bulb without first consulting him, assuming I could not get him to change it for me. Despite his best efforts, I was convinced and still am that electricity is Seriously Weird Stuff. Amateur Homebrewing simply takes this weirdness to a Higher Level. I decided to confront those haunting electrical demons, and make every effort to learn and build the mysterious electrical and radio circuits.

Unfortunately, my stumbling journey into Homebrewing Alchemy indicates the majority of 'beginners' texts on homebrewing are based on fundamental electrical and radio theory and practice and assume you are levelheaded with latent Nerd tendencies; they fail to address the intrinsic occult nature of electricity. For you kindred souls of electrical paranoia, who have similarly cowered in the shadows of the Valley of Electricity, fearing a lot of evil, for your Elmer was shorted out, this article will provide some translations and serve as an entry-level primer before you tackle the "real" texts and projects. First, some definitions:

**Electricity:** from Greek, "strange force of the god

**Electro, Maker of Sparks”**

**Electrons:** itty-bitty pieces of Electricity that exists only in textbook - forget ‘em

**Radio Waves:** what you and I know as invisible vapors that fly through air

**QRM:** evil vapors

**CW QSO:** good vapors

**Transmitter:** vapor producer

**Receiver:** vapor collector

**Circuit:** receiver or transmitter vapor trap

**Stuffing:** funny-looking things that make up circuits and ‘flavor’ vapors, vapor-transistors, diodes, resistors, etc. No one really knows how they work, but they are fun to play with

**“Homebrew”:** elite amateur radio incantation, i.e., ‘the rig here is Homebrew’, loosely translated as “I do not understand basic economics, and instead of having enough sense to forget about The Theory and Practice of Vapors and spend money on a radio that works, I have spent thousands of hours and lots of bucks on books and circuit-stuffing, building this silly thing that may or may not be producing and collecting vapors as we speak”

The next problem with the mainstream texts and projects for beginners is Tools. If you are an old fan of late ‘60’s underground comics, you will remember Mr. Natural’s admonition: Get The Right Tool For The Right Job. After almost 300 years on this planet, I have determined you Humans fall into two basic Tool categories: (a) you can never have enough, or Q)) anything can be built and/or fixed with a hammer, vicegrips, or blow torch. Screwdriver optional, assuming you don’t have a knife or coins. Acquisition of Parts presents an analogous dilemma, giving us two basic Parts categories: (a) you have bookmarked the Web address of every Parts and Components dealer/manufacturer, and THEY have your MC/VISA number AND send you Christmas and Birthday cards, or (b) you are immensely proud of your dumpster-diving forays which have not only fed your family but also produced your cherished Tuna Tin Two or Alpo All Band. Nonetheless, this apparent dichotomy will not stop you, because you are a Real Ham. How do I know this? Well, think about it, OM: you’re nuts enough to have waded through the small print of this Journal, published in a rag dedicated to CW junkies—what does that tell you? Real Hams are versatile critters; hence, your True Path Into Homebrew will no doubt have you wandering through all of the op-

tions listed above, alternately (a) boasting of rigs you built from roadkill, and b) reduced to selling your blood and Mad Magazine collection to raise funds for an O’ scope.

If you’re still with me, that tells me (1) someone besides me and Larry, N0SA, reads the Keynote cover-to-cover, (2) your psychiatrist and/or parole officer told you to keep busy”, or (3) you’re ready to build your very own vapor producer/collector just in case you can no longer hear those neat noises and voices in your head. I could tell you that it’s gonna be easy, but, even as a lawyer, I don’t want to be lumped together with the folks who told you 20 WPM was easy, and I could tell you that it’s gonna be cheap, but, even as a lawyer, I don’t want to be lumped together with the lawyer who told you your divorce was gonna be cheap. I’m not even gonna tell you it will be fun. In fact, now’s the time to stockpile Prozac or find the extra Uzi magazines and start luring cats into the backyard firing range. This is painstaking, frustrating, dirty, eyestraining, hazardous work. But, you WILL do it, because you’re a Real Ham, dammit, and By God, REAL HAMS BUILD STUFF!

So, what’s the project? I wanted to pick something tried and true’ well-documented, minimum number of parts, ‘beginner-friendly” (yeah right, see “lumpy lawyer” caveats, above), available in kit form or easy enough for ground-plane construction, and usable as a ‘building block” for add-ons and modifications. I settled on a one-watt transmitter designed by noted British QRPer G3RJV, the “Oner”, yet another great product from the wonderful Empire that gave us unidentifiable Meat Pies and Mick Jagger. I found it in ARRL’s QRP Power (whattaya bet the Boys From Newington really burned the midnight oil thinking up that title’.) containing a reprint of WA3ULH’s article published 10/94 in QST. It wasn’t just the picture of a trashed Kodak film box the damn thing was built in that hooked me, it was the caption: “A Fun Project For Beginners That Really Works!” Well, Hey Kids!. I started believing that BS years ago when I bought my first pair of ‘X-Ray Specs” out of the back pages of Archie Comics. Read that caption as “A Fun Project For Beginners With Tools, References, Elmer, and Patience, That Will Likely Work After You Bribe Your Elmer To Fix Your Screwups!” (this one cost me a bunch of particle board and a promise I wouldn’t mention him again in my Journals. Something about

guilt by association and keeping his reputation intact. Anyway, I lied). If you're ready to put aside your O.ji Board (keep it handy-you'll need it later to determine "pin-outs") and buy into conventional homebrew theory and practice, pick up a copy of Getting Stared in Electronics by Forrest M. Mims, III (a Radio Shack publication, Cat No.62-5003) an ARRL Handbook and Paul Harden's The Electronic Data Book for Homebrewers and QRPers. The late W1FB's great legacies, Design Notebook and QRP Notebook are outstanding texts found in any accomplished homebrewer's shack, as well as in mine.

If you haven't spent all the proceeds from your last bogus insurance claim on the above texts, follow the guidance therein and blow the rest on the necessary tools, equipment, components and/or kits. I used the WA3ULH parts list and bought the components from the local ham store; they are common enough to actually be readily available. I decided to build it for 40M and found a deal on crystals on the Norcal Web page. I also bought the kit from Kanga US, on the web at <http://www.bright.net/~kanga/kanga/> or mail Bill Kelsey, N8ET, 3521 Spring Lake Dr, Findlay, OH, 45840, phone 419-423-4604. Bill sells the entire series (Oner, TX, RX, VFO, QSK, and low pass filter) for \$75, including shipping. Not only is this a good deal, but Bill ships fast and has promptly answered all of my semi-intelligible questions. See you soon in Part 2: Death From Above -The Dead Bugs Construction Co.

## DX PORTION OF THE KEYNOTE

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Full or US listing 3 x 2nd class stamps, EU 2 stamps. No envelope necessary. **Lapel Badges**, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £2.50 incl. **QSL Cards** £5.00 per 100 or £8.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice. Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet (65), max order 5 sheets. **SUBS:** UK £5.00, Europe, £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

### OFFICES

**QSL Manager: G0FRL. Bob Lowe**  
PO Box 190. BOLTON. BL1 4UL.  
**U.S. Rep: WZ8C. Ms. Nancy Kott.**  
5450 Diehl Rd., METAMORA, MI48455  
**PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh**  
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY  
**CONTEST MANAGER: GM4BAE**  
Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, DG90HY  
E-Mail: [fist1@compuserve.com](mailto:fist1@compuserve.com)  
**Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS.** 119 Cemetery Rd.,  
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

### NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS  
US 0100Z on 14058  
Tues: G0IPIX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)  
Wed: US Net 0100z on 14058  
Thurs: QRS 1900 (loc) on 3575. 2E0AJS  
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins  
Pse keep watch all Novice allocations  
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

FISTS (EU) Web Site <http://www.olivenet.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>

### GREETINGS

Well my goodness, things do seem to be taking off with a vengeance. A glance at the new members listings will show you what I mean. Nancy has ported some 30 or more new US members during the month and one of our JA members is trying to organise a group with the object of forming a JA chapter, hopefully with the intent of transcribing Keynote and other FISTS related publications into the native JA lingo. I must tell you, that if this takes off then there is an absolute wealth of fine operators who will be joining us.

I am writing this during the winter SK week which hopefully will explain my apparent absence from the bands on this event. We seem to be enjoying the same enthusiasm as on previous occasions and one member explained that he had blown all his 'days in lieu' in order to be QRV all day during the week.

An interesting point was aired by G3SXW in the FOC news letter pointing out that on three weekends of the



year, the CW allocation is absolutely saturated whilst at most other times, it seems noticeably easier than even a few years ago to find an empty spot on the bands. Do the otherwise lean offerings on open bands suggest that there are fewer CW operators? This is clearly not the case because all major contests report increased participation so why then do we find these lulls in activity? He goes on to suggest that what is notably absent these days is rag chews in CW and I regretfully come to the same conclusion. Operating habits do appear to be changing with much less in-depth natters and far more pouncing on a quick QSO.

Those who know me well will know that although I tolerate the 'rubber stamp' QSO as a useful way of introducing CW practice and procedure generally, I also spurn it between other than the tentative beginner. It is of course difficult to initiate full blown fat-chewing sessions unless the language is common to both participants but what is prominent here is the number of such sessions between German, French and Scandinavian operators. I sometimes sit and try to divine the substance of the chat with my limited knowledge of these different languages but the truth is that apart from the (mainly FOC) operators on the lower end of the band, little rag chewing is to be heard in English.

Could I here make a plea for an attempt at more prolonged QSOs? Ask a few questions of your contact. Initiate discussion with your own observations. There are many FISTS members - and not necessarily road racers such as G0VTN - who delight me with subjects other than the state of the weather, their rig and vagaries of their antenna systems and these worthy gents do much to highlight the attractions of the mode. Dare I mention the weather? Talk about queer, that is an inadequate description. Last month I mentioned that many creatures were out and about that had absolutely not business to be so and suddenly, winter rears its head in no uncertain terms. Hi. We have had gale force winds and blizzards which have left much of Scotland lacking only a few polar bears to complete the picture of Arctic desolation and here in the more temperate North West of England, there are periods of many days when one begins to doubt the existence of old Sol. Buds have been noted on some trees though I think this is more a sign of arboreal optimism than one of spring.

## SWANSEA RALLY

Our Bill, GW0SGG will be making his presence known again on April 11. I am sure that any members intent upon turning up at the event will be happy to lend a hand if needed. For others further afield, you are encouraged to set up a stand at your local rally if for no other purpose than as a focal point for visiting members. Let me know if you plan any such venture and I will be happy to send app forms, badges and etc.

## CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE

Vlad, UA4JD, wrote the other day and asked that I make it known that his Daughter who lives in the Ukraine has a couple of problems. Firstly with her sight since she has needed to upgrade her spectacles from -2 to -7 (I know not whether this categorisation is sympathetic to the system used by our Western opticians) but it is clearly a handicap. Secondly, she is struggling with her English and in the respect, any members with a daughter, grand daughter niece etc who can spare a little time to write to Masha would be helping a lot. She is keen to know about living in the UK etc and without doubt any other subject of appeal to girls of such an age would be welcome. Perhaps for clarity, printed copy would be preferable to hand written. Her address:

Masha Lambrianova  
Pervomayskaya Str 23-28  
KREMENCHUK  
Poltav. obl 315314  
Ukraine.

## PA CALLSIGNS

Many have castigated the FCC for their policy of issuing 'vanity' calls but we must now note that PA3BHK is now PA9RZ. Robert explains that in the old days, all Dutch hams got a PA0 prefix and were allowed to choose their suffix. In 1975, the PE0 prefix was introduced for the "C" class licence (all same the UK 'B' class ticket) whilst still permitting the applicant to choose his suffix. After passing the CW test, PE0 became PA2 with the 'old' suffix. From mid 1976 onwards, things changed altogether and their RA started issuing PA3 for class 'A' licence holders prefixes with suffixes in alphabetical order whilst VHF/UHF tickets were assigned PE1 again with alphabetical suffix sequences.

In 1973 when Robert started operating from his school

station under the wing of his biology teacher (PA0CSL) as a 14 year old he had already decided on PA0RZ as his chosen call but as that call already existed, he changed it to PA0RZA. Unfortunately, when he took his RAE in the spring of 77 he had to accept a call in alphabetical sequence - until recently.

Last year, the RA re-introduced the possibility for chosen suffixes combined with the prefixes PA1,4,5-7 and 9, PB1-5 and PB7-9 and grasping his chance of adopting his preferred suffix, his call was recently changed to PA9RZ. "A young man's dream come true" he declares.

### SP-CW-C

This is a special club of the Polish Amateur Union (PZK) combining both amateur operators and SWLs interested in CW.

Membership is open to anyone who submits proof of working 3 SP-CW-C members in CW during 1998, a list of such stations signed by two independent amateurs is required.

A membership certificate (3\$ US) is available and from that point on, membership is free and for life.

Members of **international CW organisations** may apply for membership without the requirements above. Members are free to use the club's logo on cards and correspondence though the example attached to the document I have is not sufficiently distinct to scan.

Applications to SP-CW-C c/o Sylwester Jarkiewicz (SP2FAP), 82-337 Suchacz, Poland.

I am also given a list of members which unfortunately is too exhaustive to reproduce but I am conveniently pointed to: <http://www.wlkp.top.pl/~pzk> or e-mail: [sp2fap@elblag.kwp.gov.pl](mailto:sp2fap@elblag.kwp.gov.pl).

### SILENT KEY

Bob, G4ARL, suffered a heart attack on Christmas day and from that point, fell into a coma from which he never emerged. His death on 5 Feb was perhaps not unexpected in the circumstances but his Wife (who phoned in the information) spoke of the great pleasure he derived from his association with us and of the many friends he had made on air.

### STATISTICS

Stan, K4UK, submitted a report which appeared in Nancy's NA MEMO:

It has been quite a year! We handled 49,084 QSL cards

at the Bureau. We sent 4,039 QSL cards over to G0FRL for contacts with DX members of FISTS. We sent 2,867 QSL cards to Canadian members and 1,059 cards to DX members on this side of the Atlantic. We also sent 93 cards to ZL2AOH for the new ZL/VK members.

*"Our major costs have been the postage of packages to the UK which average 140-150 cards each time and involve between 6 and 7 \$US to post".*

I am not sure if Bob keeps those sort of records but by and large, each package of cards received for the US bureau is mirrored at this end so you can see there is a fair amount of money involved in simply keeping up with the demand for EU QSL responses.

I stuff the envelopes ready for Bob to post and an average of between 360 and 400 are left unsealed so that Bob can insert any outstanding QSL cards. These are processed right up to the last minute so you can see that it is possible for you to work a member on Wednesday and receive his QSL card with your Key-note the following Monday - some service! The US members of course are required to deposit stamped envelopes with their bureau because Nancy does not enjoy the luxury that I do in having a QSL manager within 30 minutes driving time and who will deal with the postage of her MEMO. Some members place a greater burden on us than others as you may well imagine and Bob frequently has to post 'small packages' containing perhaps 150 QSL cards to some of our EU and UK members since the volume of traffic for them is too great to be accommodated in the Keynote envelopes.

At HQ, I processed some 75+ batches of FISTS QSL cards during 1998 as you will read in the next Key-note for April which will contain the accounts for the previous year. All these plus a wealth of individual cards will ultimately end up in Bobs' filing system so you can imagine the volume of traffic which passes through his Bolton address. Hi.

Nancy also included a table showing the Web page hits for November and December which breaks down as:

as:Nov 1-7	237	Nov 8-14	395
Nov 15-21	523	Nov 22-28	507
Nov 29-30	165	Dec 1-5	256
Dec 6-12	372	Dec 13-19	455
Dec 20-26	459		

This limited report indicates a considerable interest in the club since not all registered hits would be members.

## ODD HEADLINES

A request for information and app form EA7/SM7COS was accompanied by a collection of headlines which caught his eye. These are genuine and direct translations from the native tongue by a journalist with a fetish for collecting the howlers of his fellow writers:

*Something went wrong in jet crash expert says.*  
*Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers*  
*Safety experts say school bus passengers should be belted*  
*Drunk gets nine months in violin case*  
*Survivor of Siamese twins joins parents*  
*Farmer bill dies in house*  
*Iraqi head seeks arms*  
*Is there a ring of debris around Uranus*  
*Stud tires out*  
*Prostitutes appeal to Pope*  
*Panda mating fails. Veteranarian takes over*  
*Soviet virgin lands short of goal again*  
*British left waffles on Falkland Islands*  
*Lung cancer in women mushrooms*  
*Eye drops off shelf*  
*Teacher strikes idle kids*  
*Reagan wins on budget but more lies ahead*  
*Squad helps dog bite victim*  
*Shot off womans leg helps Nicklaus to 66*  
*Enraged cow injures farmer with axe*  
*Plane too close to ground crash probe told*  
*Miners refuse to work after death*  
*Juvenile court to try shooting offenders*  
 Heck.. I'm gonna keep the rest of 'em on one side and run a few more by you next month. Hi.

## MORE STATISTICS

An oft repeated request is for the percentages of members with specific affiliations. As of todote, we have

RNARS	54
RSARS	65
RAFARS	81
G-QRP	204
RSGB	604

There are other affiliations of course SCAG, FOC, AGCW, MEGS and etc but few in comparison to the

above. The latter row may be incorrect however since it is known that many of our members deliberately allowed the RSGB membership to lapse following the Society's clear attitude towards CW.

'Other interests' swings wildly from subject to subject. Photography continues to feature prominently though in the last few years, 'Nature' which was hitherto confined to a handful is now the stated interest of an increasing number. Take your pick. We go from veteran cars and motorcycles to model aircraft, ships and power boat racing. We have members of the clergy whose interests vary from violin making to weather forecasting and we have a whole raft of pensioners who find themselves aligned with G3ZQS and the delights of real ale. We are a truly cosmopolitan organisation with representatives from the city, engineers, doctors, dentists, legal eagles, farmers and layabouts such as myself. Hi.

Incidentally, VE1QJ visiting Moncton NB spotted a sign over a doorway. Nancy reproduces from the original which reads FISTS BOXING CLUB. As the people from SETI keep insisting, we are not alone!

## MANNERS

Again I poach from the NA MEMO:  
*FISTS aren't the 'CW Police' but we hope that anyone who joins FISTS will uphold our motto of 'Courtesy at all times'. When you are on the air, people ARE reading the mail and apparently there are some FISTS out there who are being rude and mean spirited. FISTS has a reputation for patient and courteous operators. Please don't operate in a manner that will tarnish our good name! WB2EXI*

Actually, John was referring to a QSO during which the operator was asked to QRS and, since the request came from an extra-class ticket holder, was heard to say "don't know why you extras can't copy 20" The station requesting the QRS was apparently 'rusty' having been absent from CW for some 15 years and also had a novice in the shack. I know this sort of thing happens but rarely but it surely hurts when it does.

## CC HOLDERS

The following is current list of Century Award Holders ordered on Prefix/Suffix

AA0KJ, AA0RI, AA0VF, AA0WZ, AA1HV, AA1KF,

AA1SU, AA2NL, AA2SM, AA2YK, AA3LM, AA3RC, AA3RL, AA5EA, AA8PJ, AA8YO, AA9BO, AA9KH, AA9KH, AA9LS, AB2AU, AB2CE, AB5EQ, AB5YY, AB5ZD, AB7ZL, AC4DT, AC4NW, AC4ZH, AC5BG, AC5JH, AC5NL, AC5P, AC6QO, AC6TO, AD4OS, AD6AG, AD8L, ADUI, AE2L, AE4AI, AE4AZ, AE4JG, AE4NW, AE4P, AE4QS, AE4VT, AF5Z, AF9H, AH7R, AI9L, DE0DXM, DJ3RE, DL1CC, DL3BZZ, EA1APA, EI2IH, EI5FY, F5JUD, F5NTP, G0EML, G0ENV, G0EVV, G0FIP, G0FOD, G0FRL, G0FVS, G0GGU, G0HGA, G0IJE, G0ILN, G0JWB, G0LJB, G0MGD, G0MRH, G0MWU, G0NKO, G0NVY, G0ONS, G0RGP, G0SCP, G0SWU, G0TAW, G0TBD, G0TCF, G0TGU, G0TUE, G0UEE, G0UKX, G0UQF, G0VCY, G0VQA, G0VQW, G0VYR, G0WAS, G0WCB, G0WEE, G0WPO, G3ASG, G3CWW, G3GXQ, G3JRY, G3KEF, G3KFG, G3KQN, G3LFE, G3LPS, G3MWP, G3OKA, G3RXX, G3RZ, G3SIO, G3VQO, G3WP, G3YLL, G4ARL, G4BNU, G4DXG, G4EIB, G4JRE, G4KPN, G4LHI, G4NBI, G4OOS, G4RBE, G4RHP, G4SSH, G4USW, G4VLW, G4WBN, G4XPE, G4ZIB, G8NT, G10PCU, GM0DJ, GM3KHH, GM4BAE, GSWL2, GW0SGG, GW0UHH, GW0UWM, GW3VLU, GW4PXQ, GW4XQH, GX0000, HP1AC, IK2WYW, IN3NJB, K0MPC, K0OAL, K1GDH, K1UNQ, K1ZDI, K2ACW, K2IUC, K2SB, K2SWZ, K2VS, K2VT, K3AS, K3CJG, K3WWP, K4BX, K4HL, K4MF, K4ORD, K4PJO, K4PTU, K4STU, K4TW, K4UK, K4UOZ, K4VRT, K4WZ, K4YKI, K5DMC, K5EYE, K6DF, K6PZE, K7FD, K7FFF, K7GT, K7IB, K7PGL, K7RON, K7VZ, K7WF, K7ZPE, K7ZR, K7ZYV, K8CW, K8EY, K8FN, K8HBL, K8JD, K8JV, K8LEN, K8LJG, K8UCL, K8UGL, K9JWI, KA1OX, KA1STU, KA1SVX, KA2GHO, KA2KDJ, KA3P, KA3UXU, KA4IFF, KA4LCM, KA8OQF, KA8TOR, KA8YRV, KA8ZDL, KA9CRF, KB2PLW, KB2SWI, KB2UZY, KB4JR, KB4OPV, KB6TAL, KB7PIM, KB7ZO, KB8KIK, KB8KRD, KB8OOM, KB8PGW, KB9NGF, KB9W, KC2AFK, KC2AIO, KC4UBC, KC4UUG, KC5GXC, KC5NRB, KC5VJU, KC7QGE, KC7RZA, KC7YWD, KC8BSC, KC8GOJ, KD1XA, KD6RDO, KD6VMY, KD6WNM, KE1AF, KE3NV, KE4GBE, KE4HZM, KE4LIA, KE6OIO, KF2G, KF2TP, KF6DCU, KF6GUH, KG2LO, KG2OK, KG8DA, KG8WF, KG9HE, KI0HQ, KI0LL, KI4IH, KI5UK, KI8DU, KI8FL, KJ7LB, KJ7OX, KK5IB, KK7NB, KK8B, KN2GSJ, KN4NO, KP4DJ, KQ6ES, KQ6NS, KR3C, KR4YS, KS4DU, KS4UV, KS7J, KT4QD, LA1IE, LY3BY, LZ1JZ, M0AGO, M0ANL, M0ASN, M0AVW, M0AWN, M0AXJ, M0BEV, M0BHS, M0BLV, M0BOS, N0BZM, N0NJK, N0UR, N0ZNC, N1DNM, N1NM, N1PT, N1PVP, N1TP, N1VWD, N1WL, N1WLC, N1YLA, N2FX, N2SLB, N2WCY, N2ZHF, N2ZHF, N3AO, N3CEU, N3LBC, N3NY, N3PM, N3RSD, N3XT, N3YVW, N3ZGZ, N4GD, N4KN, N4OT, N4UY, N4VEF, N4ZMP, N4ZZZ, N5DCF, N5LF, N5OE, N5SAN, N5VC, N5VC,

N6FE, N6IV, N6RNP, N6WU, N6ZKT, N7CFA, N7IF, N7XNH, N8FF, N8FL, N8JIW, N8NLE, N8UD, N8UIJZ, N8WPX, N8WYO, N9BOR, N9LGP, N9TA, NB2T, NC5S, NC9T, NOIBT, NP3K, NP4FW, NS2G, NS2G, NS2H, NT8X, NW3N, OH8US, OZ1EUO, OZ7KDJ, OZ9WZ, PA3AFF, PY2DBU, SM4ASI, SP6JOE, SV1DLS, UA4AQO, UU0JN, V21CW, VA3JEG, VA3JJ, VA3JPM, VA3KEW, VA3UU, VE1BBW, VE1MT, VE1VEI, VE1ZAC, VE2ENB, VE3BBW, VE3DCS, VE3FMC, VE3KLM, VE3MIQ, VE3SO, VE4GEC, VE5HQ, VE5RD, VE6ARG, VE6KJL, VE6ZAA, VE7CRO, VE7RGX, VY2RB, W0AAU, W0CGR, W0GV, W0UFO, W0VHV, W1BFN, W1EPZ, W1FHP, W2BJ, W2BWQ, W2GR, W2HDW, W2JSF, W2NGB, W2NTS, W2YQV, W3DCN, W3DP, W3ERU, W3JIM, W3NGO, W3RMD, W4BX, W4DON, W4EEX, W4GEO, W4GTM, W4IUI, W4JCH, W4KFB, W4MA, W4NPL, W4OGZ, W4PBL, W4RMM, W4ZCR, W5HQL, W5RPJ, W5WWW, W5ZR, W6DDB, W6DDB, W6GG, W6JEP, W6JUS, W6STU, W6WOW, W7BWI, W7DAZ, W7GB, W7LPF, W7VW, W7ZZZ, W8BL, W8EQA, W8FAX, W8FDV, W8III, W8LFJ, W8YBO, W9BOK, W9BYH, W9FRC, W9ISU, W9LUI, W9NT, W9YQ, W9YYG, WA0FGV, WA1GAG, WA2BQI, WA2VQV, WA3PTY, WA3WSJ, WA4CX, WA4KQL, WA4LDQ, WA5KOI, WA5UFH, WA6RCH, WA6RND, WA7YYY, WA9PWP, WB0B, WB0YPO, WB2EXI, WB2FXK, WB2HEK, WB2UEC, WB2YAF, WB8FSV, WB8OZX, WD0HBW, WD4MSM, WD6CKT, WD8OCV, WD8OCV, WF6W, WG6M, WK3P, WL7CDC, WN2DX, WN4BOT, WO8E, WP2T, WP4LNY, WS0L, WW5XX, WX7M, YO4NF, ZL1BIQ, ZL2AOH.

My apologies if there are any omissions and should there be errors, they will be typos since I have to transpose the dBase data into text format and then do some severe messing around in order to get 'em to print out in this manner.

## NEW MEMBERS

Things are certainly moving in the membership stakes and we jump from the 5500 series to 6000 since the US contingent has outgrown the 56, 57 and 5800 blocks in the interim.

5580	G0UNJ	Chris	5581	GF4LQO	Bill
5582	ON4CD	Bart	5583	ON4CCG	Emiel
5584	G3HZE	Albert	5585	JP6GQN	Kun
5586	DJ0GD	Peter	5587	G4ZME	Eric
5588	PA2DGR	Hans	5589	PA3HBX	Bert
5590	M0BZK	David	5591	G3KYF	Keith
5592	M0CDL	John	5593	US1REO	Peter
5594	G0UCH	Colin	5595	G4LGX	John
5596	G4PDJ	Chris	5597	GM4WLN	Bob

5598 OZ2BAL Jorgen 5599 M0BZGJohn  
 6000 G0AXZ Bill 6001 G0CQYVic  
 6002 JA2AJA Mano 6003 LX1BKGeorge  
 6004 G0SGQ Malcolm 6005 GW0WER Pat

The total membership now stands at 4340 active members which means that we are now well on our way to the magic 5K and each week now it seems that a request for information is flopping through the letter box. Indeed, activity could present a problem at peak operating periods since. Just imagine even a modest 5% of our total strength trying to operate at the same time and on the same bands ..... chaos. Did I hear someone from the RSGB say that CW was a redundant mode?

## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

The dreaded lurgy struck again as G0TUA was stricken by the same bug that hit me. Like myself, George had also had an anti-flu shot but in his case, he had to call in the plumber when he lost 25 pounds in weight. He is now wheezing musically with query bronchitis so he is hoping that his immune system has not been completely floored and will permit him to bring down the loft bound feedline. UA6JD. Vlad made good use of the 3.5" disc which I sent him and found quite a number of anomalies as well as being able to fill in half a dozen names which were missing. His mono-band for 15m has been firing up regularly but he is still searching for our VK, ZL and JA members. Why is there such a low level of activity on 40m during the evenings? I know not Vlad - perhaps now would be the time members to give it a whirl? Many thanks for the cards (Birthday and Christmas) Vlad. G0UQF. Grant got five ops through their CW test and has high hopes for the remaining three. Dug up a quote from G0GBY: *It seems unlikely that Morse code will every become obsolete. Its very simplicity is its virtue.* Yeah... try telling that to the RSGB/RA conspirators. M0BVI. Ooooh! He included the cost of QSL cards with his app form and I failed to note this. Sri Paul, you should have 'em by now. Hi. G0HGA. Our Angie is running a 486 computer these days though strictly Windows v3.11 for workgroups. You may be able to get a driver for that LC10 printer off the internet Angie or perhaps ask someone who has access to hunt it down for you. Currently trying to interface rx and PC to read RTTY with a giveaway prog (BT). Her problems with deliberate jamming continues and her callsign on the bands is a magnet for all kinds of QRM. GW0SGG. Bill insists

that I acknowledge his acclaim for the Best and fastest QSL service ever. Boquet for Bob with a 48 hour turn-round for his Platinum award claim. LA3BX. Hej Ted. Says the FISTS logging prog is working FB on his ageing 286. You gotta believe it mate... I wrote it when running an 8 bit machine (the Einstein - anyone remember that one) so it should be more than at home on the 286. In collusion with one of our members, I am trying to up-grade the thing to take advantage of the impressive Windows GUI but there is much writing to be done. Hi. G0TBD. Terry has been having a ball with the recent openings on 10m. Wish I could do the same mate but apart from the daytime, it is a source of superb TVI on neighbours lanterns. He points out that the novice segment of 30m is virtually unusable due to thoughtless use of SSB by (principally) french speaking stations and is quite rightly fearful that when the Morse requirement is dispensed with, such intrusion on a very narrow band may be common place. G4ZPY. I have added Gordons' e-mail and web address to his panel. He chides me for not offering an explanation of 'Jam Butty' so, for our non UK members, it is simply a sandwich with jam as a filling. It extends further than this though because as a youngster, a 'real' birthday cake would have been very expensive so this was substituted by an el-cheapo sponge cake, split with jam with the appropriate number of candles aloft and known to us kids as a Jam Butty. Hi. G0WAS. Alan sympathises with G4SSH and the resignation but wonders if this was the appropriate action. If no further 12wpm tests are available, it will be food indeed to the no Morse brigade so he intends to stay with it as long as the test for 12wpm is required. GW4PXQ. George drew my attention to the TV series on Bletchley Park and the covert activities of the talented code breaking gang there. Sadly I did not manage to view this though I am sure many members would have been in a better position than myself since it clashed with Ivys' preferred viewing time. He has been on the sharp end of the contest element with a K8 on 10m and a disappointing QSO of report/number/BK. G4IXI. Our Trevor goes all anatomical on me (entimologically speaking) pointing out that 'Flea Power' is a misnomer when applied in the QRP sense. The humble bringer of scratches and lumps can launch itself up to 200 times its own modest height and, I understand, is capable of lifting close on that magnitude over its own weight against the influence of gravity. Doesn't it make you feel insignificant? G4ZME. Heck. New member Eric says he is a

bit long in the tooth (78 years) to join FISTS. Don't you believe it mate. You are a spring chicken compared to some of our very active members. Hi. Learned the code in the RAF many yonks ago and is proof of my contention that once learned, it is like riding a bike. You never forget how to fall off. Hi.

## **ODDS 'N ENDS**

### **REFLECTOR**

Those of you with access to the internet who have advised Brian (W8BL) of your address will by now have received an invitation to join in a FISTS REFLECTOR. To be truthful, I had no idea what a reflector was apart from the element at the back of my beam but it seems that it is something like a chat box except that you are not necessarily connected to the web site. Instead, members send their letters and opinions in and the current bag of such observations is downloaded to your mailbox so you can peruse off line.

In order to guard against 'flames', all material is filtered through a moderator (in this case it is Nancy WZ8C) who will 'vet' material and possibly reject topics of an unsuitable nature. There will always be someone trying to cause problems but since it is restricted to FISTS members, this possibility is much reduced.

### **QRP**

We continue to find the odd complaint from the QRP brigade. They are few in comparison with the number of stations using the QRP segment and as always, if FISTS do appear on .060, the likelihood is that they are also QRP. I must ask again that this is specified (CQ FISTS/QRP) as by now, just about everyone has taken the advice to migrate LF rather the HF to find a clear frequency or go hunting.

I hate to keep reminding people that .058 is 2KHz clear of .060 and any half decent receiver should be able to cope with this. The latest suggestion is that we should occupy .065 rather than .058. The reason? Well there is much activity there from the Data mode operators who seemingly demand something in the order of 5KHz separation from adjacent transmissions. Again, band discipline raises its ugly head. This sort of intrusion is set to continue until all countries with amateur populations sit round the table with IARU and decide on a rigid band plan applicable to ALL.

We still have the situation of VE stations operating SSB feely well within the segment of 40m which is recognised by everyone else as a CW allocation.

### **40M**

An oft repeated request for those of you free to operate whilst the rest of the world is working for a living. Hi. 40m seems to be sadly under used during daylight hours, most stations preferring to trawl 20m and up despite some pretty awful conditions on those bands. I must confess that this is also my tendency though my infrequent excursions to 40 invariably yield some very interesting results. Most of the gang use 7.028 as a starting point and, as with the HF bands, search LF.

## **FINALE**

Having got the Keynote out a little earlier this month, I am looking forward to a little on-air activity. It is high time I took a shufti at 30m again because it is quite a while since HQ was active on that band. Most of you are aware of the situation at this end but if I fail to respond to a call there are several reasons. Ivy may need attention, Tammy may well be due his walkies or (as so often happens on 80m evening times) I have a pint going cold. Hi.

Those of you who live reasonably local are reminded of the AGM on the first Tuesday of next month at the Cemetery Hotel, 1930. You will be most welcome.. 73/88 people and my thanks to you all for your continued support and encouragement.

Geo.

## **FISTS Down Under**

Local News – March 1999

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ZL2CD-BILL-9004

We are pleased to report that Bill seems to be on the mend now. He has resumed activity on the air and is now able to take some exercise as prescribed by his medical advisers. He has also rejoined the Wellington amateur radio Sunday morning net, much to the pleasure of the other participants.

### Member's Correspondence

"Amateurs on some of the coast stations concerned put up special event stations as follows:

**THE END OF AN ERA** —> With the full implementation of the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) on 1 February, the international listening watch on 500 kHz ended. To celebrate the end of an era operators from Qaqortoq Radio (OX3OXF), Nuuk Radio (OX3OXI), Aasiaat Radio (OX3OYR), Reykjavik Radio (TF3TFA), Torshavn Radio (OY3OXJ), Lyngby Radio (OZ1OXZ, operated by OZ8AE; OZ5OXZ, operated by OZ5D; OZ1OXB, operated by OZ6TL) will be QRV between 1 and 28 February and again during the special event weekend on 10-11 April on 1830, 3535, 7025, 10125, 14035, 18075, 21035, 24905 and 28035 kHz. QSL via bureau. [TNX OZ6TL]

Along with some other amateurs I was invited to ceremony for the "last msg sent" at TFA last Sunday night. Was a memorable event for sure! TF3KM taped the QSOs from the air at home."  
73, Villi TF3DX (1658)

In forwarding yet another batch of QSLs ZL1ARW-Jim-6009 reports –

"I have just made the K-9 keyer and it works really well and was so simple to build.

Hope we are getting a few more members. Still mainly working 10 metres in the morning.

Won't be able to do this much longer as I will be fit for work in about a week or two" Nice to be able to work 10 metres after a long period of the solar doldrums and great that you are getting fit again and able to work Jim - Ed

ZL1BSJ-Keith-9000 writes:

"Tks for the Feb newsletter and cards. Now have my Century Award No: 616. I am enjoying working FISTS Club members and meeting new friends and also meeting up with old ones. Great to collect new numbers and still have a rag chew." Congratulations on obtaining your CC Keith. It took me about seven years! Ed

I managed to shed my chairmanship of Wellington Amateur Radio Club Branch 50 at the AGM a few days ago. This will give me a little more time for ham radio operating, I hope. The most exciting news is that the Quartz Hill Users Group operating as ZL6QH won both the 1998CW and SSB VK/ZL/Oceania Contests. I was one of the few CW operators. We had a go in the CQ CW 180 metre contest last month but the conditions were abominable and few stations were heard and even fewer were workable.

### New DXCC Country

The International Telecommunication Union, in its Operational Bulletin No. 685 of February 1, 1999, has allocated the call sign prefix E4 for use by Palestine. This is in accordance with the Resolution PLEN/3 of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1998.

Under the current DXCC List Criteria, Section 1, this call sign allocation meets the requirement of paragraph b. Palestine will be added to the DXCC List effective October 1, 1999. Contacts made with E4 stations after February 1, 1999, will count for this new entity.

Under the DXCC rules, contacts with the deleted entity of Palestine made prior to June 30, 1968 do not count for this entity, as there was no commonality of territory or administration.

Thanks to the ARRL DX bulletin for the following: PALESTINE, E4. A team of operators from the U.S. and Europe are QRV from here until February 28 as E44DX. They will concentrate on 40 meter CW on February 19, and 15 meter CW the next day. They will also work SSB on 20 and 15 meters during the ARRL CW DX Contest, with possible CW on the newer bands. They will not participate in the contest. QSL via OH2BN. A number of other E4 stations are QRV as well. Ali, E44A, can be found around 14250 kHz. QSL via JY4NE.

73 de ZL2AOH –Ralph-1073

FIST CW CLUB, P.O.Box 47  
Hadley, MI 48440-0047

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By Arnie MACY, KT4ST

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